PLEASANT

ADVENTURES

OF

GUSMAN,

OF ALFARACHE,

TAKEN FROM THE HISTORY OF HIS LIFE,

AND TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH INTO FRENCH,

BY *M. LE SAGE,*

And run through 26 Editions at Paris in a short Time

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

BY

ARTHUR O'CONNER, Esq.

SECOND EDITION.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & CO.

NO. 15, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1816.



PLEASANT

ADVENTURES, &c.

CHAP. I.

Gusman resolves on seeing his Relations at Genoa. —What Kind of Reception he met with.

Behold me now enquiring the way to the splendid abodes of my kindred, and publicly boasting, as I went along, of being one of their family; which they very soon got information of from people who loved them not, and who, judging that the sight of a young man, so badly equipped, would give them no great pleasure, were in the greatest hurry imaginable to carry them this agreeable news.' My generous relatives were driven to despair: they

thought my poverty would cover them with eternal infamy; and I would not swear, if they could, without committing themselves, have me assassinated, they would not fail to do it. Besides that, they would only have done in this circumstance but to follow the custom of the country.

I had, however, the imprudence to present myself publicly before them. Every one of them I accosted treated me as an impostor and a thief. Believe us, said they to me; do not stop at Genoa, lest you should pass your time in it very badly. It was in vain to name my father, and protest that he had held his rank among the nobles of Genoa; all his ill-natured kindred had forgotten him.

I met, however, one evening, a certain old man, who, without discovering himself, spoke to me with an air of affability and honor: My son, said he,

is it not you who have reason to complain of some titled persons in this town, that will not acknowledge you to be one of their blood? I answered in the affirmative, and told him who my father was. You speak to me, replied the old man, of a nobleman, whom I have seen formerly. It is true he has relatives in this city, who are people of the first distinction. I will tell you also, I know a banker, who ought to have been one of your father's friends, and who to-morrow, for it is too late this evening, will apprise you, or give you a true notion of all your family. In waiting until I introduce you to him, continued he, come and lodge in my house. I am incensed at the reception your cousins have given you; they ought rather to receive you with affection. But follow me, and depend upon the banker giving you ample revenge for their hard-heartedness.

I accepted the offer which the good old man made, of giving me a lodging in his house, rendering thanks to Heaven for so fortunate a rencounter. I had no notion of suspecting so venerable a personage of any treachery or deceit. He had a countenance composed of gravity and meekness; his bald head and white beard rendered his appearance reverend and attracting. A neat cane supported his tardy steps, which, together with a long robe that he wore, made me look upon him as another St. Paul, so interesting was his figure. When we were in his house, which appeared to me a magnificent hotel, a servant attended to take off his robe, but the old man would not permit him, through an excess of politeness, and sent the servant away, after saying something to him in Italian, which was so much Hebrew to me. After that we entered a splendid drawing-room,

where, for a whole hour, we conversed on the affairs of Spain. Then coming insensibly to those of my family, he put a thousand questions to me, particularly respecting my mother, and I shewed him, by my answers, I was no fool.

The conversation was beginning to grow tiresome, when the servant returned. They had together again a short dialogue in Italian, which I understood no more than the first. But immediately after, the good man, addressing me, spoke in Spanish: I suppose you have supped: it is time to go to bed, you must have need of repose; —we will see each other in the morning. Then turning to the valet, Antonio-Maria, continued he, conduct this gentleman to the best apartment in my house. I had more mind to eat than sleep, or rather, I was dying with hunger, having, through misfortune, dined

very moderately that day at my paltry inn, the better to spare my pistole, which was drawing very fast to its end. Nevertheless, for fear of abusing the goodness of a host, who appeared so disposed to render me service, I followed the servant, as if I had had my belly full. This valet made me at first cross a ribble-row of seven or eight rooms, paved with alabaster, each exhibiting a splendid successon of elegance and fashion: From thence we entered a gallery, in order to get to a very handsome chamber, where a magnificent bed, richly ornamented with superb curtains, invited one to repose. This is your apartment, said Antonio-Maria, and the bed which is destined for you. No one sleeps in that bed but princes, or the relatives of my master.

This valet, after having let me consider a little the richness of the furniture, offered to undress me, which for

reasons I refused. Besides that, I did not wish he should see an old torn shirt; my coat had need of a hand more *interested* than his, to take it off delicately. However, whether it was through malice, or that he thought I opposed not his obliging proposal but through politeness, he returned to the charge; and endeavouring to oblige me in spite of myself, he laid hold of my sleeve and dragged it so rudely, that if I had not had the precaution to keep it fast with the other hand, he would infallibly have torn it off from the coat. Demanding at last, in an angry tone, to be left to myself, I was on the point of quarrelling in earnest with him, if he had not stopped to prevent my resentment. I withdrew to the off-side of the bed, where having quickly thrown off my rags, that were held together only with two strings, I hastily jumped into bed, the clothes of which were elegantly

suitable and perfumed; afier which I told the valet, he might take away the candle. I have no notion of that, answered he; it would be the means of making you pass a very disagreeable night. Some very large bats, which are common in this country, are apt to lie concealed in this chamber, where the ceiling is so immensely high, and would probably be very troublesome to you, if you should remain without light. Add to that, continued he, certain evil spirits haunt the principal houses of this city, by whom one would be infallibly tormented, if he neglected to have in his chamber a candle burning, the light of which those hobgoblins are said to fly from. He told me this story with an air so ingenious, and I heard it with all the credulity of a child, in place of mistrusting this Antonio-Maria, whose thievish countenance ought to furnish me with every

cause of suspicion. He had no sooner left the room, than I got up to lock the door, less from any fear of being robbed, than with the hope of keeping out by this precaution the evil spirits from coming in to persecute me. After that, believing myself in safety, I went to bed again, and began to reflect on the affability and condescension of the venerable old man, in whose house Providence had opened for me a door of mercy and welcome. Far from suspecting any evil design, which I would not have failed to do, if I had ever so little experience, I represented to myself that he must be one of my nearest relatives, who was unwilling to discover himself that night, in order to surprise me the more agreeably in the morning. I would wager, said I, any money, that as soon as I awake, I will see a tailor coming to take my measure for a suit of clothes. I have not lost

my labour in crossing the sea to come over to Italy. It is thus, that in rocking myself with those flattering ideas, I gradually delivered up my senses to the most profound repose.

Although Antonto-Maria had told me, that the evil spirits were enemies of the light, my candle burning could not guaranty me from the persecutions of four devils, that came into my bed-chamber. I heard not at first the noise those demons made; but their intention not being to respect my repose, they approached my bed, drew back the curtains, seized me all four, two by my hands and two by my feet, and lifted me up on high. I awoke at length, and seeing myself in the claws of those four devils, I was so terrified at the sight, that one might safely say I was more dead than alive. They had the form under which a devil is represented; great tails, frightful masks,

and huge horns. I lost the use of my voice, scarcely did there remain in me any feeling whatever. I had, however, so much reason left as to invoke some saints, whose names occurred to my scared imagination. But though I should have recited every prayer I had in the world, it would have been so much good lost; I would never be able to banish those hobgoblins. Exorcisms even would have been fruitless. I had to do with baptised devils. They put me into one of my blankets, took each a corner, and began to toss me with so much vigour, that they sent me twirling up to the very ceiling, against which I imagined I was going to dash my brains out, or to break every bone in my skin. I however got off with only some very sore contusions. They ceased at length from making me turn the wild cat in the air, whether it was through fatigue, or that they felt my

fright was laxative. They put me in bed again quite exhausted and battered, and having covered me up panting with terror and amazement, they quenched the light, and retired through the way they had come in.

I remained in this wretched state, until sun-rise, and the horror, with which I had been seized, was still tormenting me, when I made an effort to get up with the design of quitting as soon as possible a house, whose inhabitants observed so badly the duties of hospitality; but I did not rise or dress myself without feeling the most painful twitches, the cause of which I could not recollect without bestowing a thousand maledictions on the old scoundrel, who had caused me to be treated so cruelly. He was no longer for me that personage so worthy of veneration, that man of exemplary worth, whom, I was blessing my stars to have met with.

He was then an old sorcerer d——d even in this world. Before I left the chamber, I was curious to know where the sham-devils got in at. I examined the door first, and finding it in the situation I had left it when lying down, I could not reasonably suppose they had introduced themselves that way; but having lifted up a tapestry, I perceived a large window which it covered, and which looked into the corridor. It was even still open, those children of lucifer giving themselves no trouble to shut it. I made no noise, lest the fleeced client should again pay the fine, and only desired to get away from this d——d place. I was already in the gallery, when Antonio-Maria met me, to tell me his master was waiting for me in a church about two paces from thence. I only requested of him to shew me the street door, which he did with so much sang-froid, as if he was

not one of the four devils who had so well tossed me in the blanket. As soon as I had got clear out of doors, I did not wait for my change. I took to my heels all at once, as if nothing had happened me, as if I had not the smallest pain. What strength originates from fear! I went like the wind.

As soon as I saw myself at liberty, my hunger, which fear had suspended, began to make its cravings so very annoying, I was forced, in order to satisfy it, to purchase a little boiled meat and a morsel of bread, which I never halted to eat, but devoured them along the road. I never drew rein until I got completely out of the city, where perceiving a tavern, I went in to wash down the bit. The wine, which I found excellent, re-animated my courage; so that after a small repast, I took the road to Rome, reflecting on the gracious reception my noble relatives

had given me, and above all, on that of the old man. I made a most solemn oath never to forget that detestable night, which the old grey wolf had procured me by bringing me to lodge in his house, and to wreak vengeance on them, if ever fortune should furnish me with an opportunity.

CHAP. II.

Of the Resolution which Gusman formed in leaving Genoa.—The agreeable Life he led with his Brother Beggars.—His Journey to Gaëte.—History of a Beggar who died at Florence.

I GOT away from Genoa without ever turning my head to look back on the city, as if I was in dread to be turned into a pillar of salt. I was like one of those who escaped from the battle of Roucevaux, and walked incessantly without keeping to any fixed route, though I had a design of going to Rome. At length I arrived at a town ten miles

from Genoa, and stopped there for some hours to rest myself. I there finished the laying out of my pistole. Afterwards abandoning myself to Providence, I continued my journey.

I found myself very lucky to be accustomed to misfortune, and to have already some principles of the art of begging. Without that, what would have become of me? I would have been very much to be pitied; whereas with the talent of exciting the charity of his neighbour, one might without money travel all Italy. I must render this justice to the Italians, that there is no nation in the world more charitable than theirs. For proof of that, I pushed on even to Rome without expending a single sou of all the money I received on the road, and which I took care to lay by. They gave me in the villages more meat and bread than I was able to eat. Beggary

in that country is then a great resource for those poor people, who wish to sacrifice to idleness. I also besotted myself so much in this employment, I determined on seeking no other. It is true, that seeing myself in the capital of the catholic world, with sufficient money to dress myself, I was in the beginning a little tempted to do it, in order to put myself in a situation to offer my services to some nobleman; but I resisted courageously this inclination, which appeared to me a temptation of the devil.

I began to walk my rags through the streets of Rome, and to ask charity as a beggar who already believed himself a master, and who, in effect, was still nothing but an apprentice in comparison to the beggars of that country. There was among others a young beggar, who, remarking after what manner I conducted myself, judged I had need

of some lessons, and wished very much to give them to me himself. We both associated with each other, and, in order to render me more useful to the society, he taught me the different manners and various tones with which it was necessary to ask of one and the other, without speaking of the variety of imploring expressions I was obliged to commit to memory. Men, said he to me, are not touched with those plaintive and lamentable voices with which some beggars make the very air to ring: they put more willingly the hand to the pocket when one asks simply for the love of God. As for the women, continued he, as some are devoted to the Blessed Virgin, and others to our Lady of the Rosary, it is by that we wheedle them. It is good also to wish them to be preserved from every mortal sin, from false witnesses, from the power of traitors and evil tongues.

Those sorts of vows, made in energetical terms, and with an emphatical voice, tear their money from the bottom of their souls. He taught me also how to inspire compassion in the rich, and, what is still more difficult, in professional devotees. In a word, I received from him such good instructions, I found myself vastly improved. I knew not what to do with all my comings-in. I knew Rome already, from the Pope down to the lowest scullion. For fear of fatiguing my benefactors by too incessant a demand on their bounty, I divided the city into seven districts, one of which I visited every day regularly. I was not less exact in traversing the churches, when any festivals were to be celebrated, and made then in those places copious receipts of pocket-money. As for the pieces of bread, which were usually given me at the doors of private houses, I sold its super-

fluity to the bashful poor, who, by the secret assistance of the faithful, were in a situation to pay me ready money. Villagers and people, who fattened fowl and pigs, bought from me also; but gingerbread-makers were those of my customers with whom I found my best account. I made a good deal of money, too, of the old clothes, which charitable people brought me to cover my skin, who could not without pity see a boy of my age almost naked, especially in the depth of winter.

From that time, having made acquaintance with the first doctors of our faculty of begging, I ultimately perfected myself by their counsels and example. I went with them into the houses of the great, when public benefactions were distributing. One day that thirty of us at least were at the door of the French ambassador's hotel, I heard one of my comrades, who

spoke behind me—See that gormandizing scoundrel of a Spaniard, he spoils our trade; if he comes with his belly-full to a place where any one offers him soup or meat, he'll have none; that destroys us: People judge from this, that the poor, for the most part, have more than they want. One of our elders, who knew me, having heard those words, said to the beggar that uttered them, Peace, comrade, do you not see he is a stranger, as yet unacquainted with our rules;—let me take him in hands; I will catechise him; he is no blockhead, and will, in a little time, be as ripe as another.

After having thus taken my part, he called me quite low, and, taking me aside, put several questions to me. He asked me from what part of Spain I was, what was my name, how long had I been in Rome; and when I had answered to all that very laconically, he

represented to me, but with a great deal of mildness and affability, the mutual considerations the poor ought to have for each other, in order to maintain the decorum of beggary; that they were obliged to be united, and to understand one another like pedlars in a fair. After that, entering into a long detail, he revealed some secrets that made me well understand I was still far beneath those great men. He taught me, among other things, what I had never in all my life heard spoken of before, how to enlarge my stomach, and to eat four times more than my usual meals, without being in the smallest respect incommoded. After that he finished, telling me at what hours I should necessarily betake myself to such and such places, in what hours I might venture as far as the kitchen, and even to the chamber, and marked out to me those whose thresholds

I should be very careful never to cross.

I got by heart all the laws of beggary, which my doctor had taught me, but contented myself with observing the most essential. Nevertheless, as I had the ambition of wishing to distinguish myself in all the professions I embraced, it often happened I embarked in enterprises which redounded neither to my honor nor profit. Such was, among others, that which I undertook one day in the month of September. It was excessively warm; I took it into my head after dinner, between one and two o'clock, to go through the streets begging from door to door. I supposed every one would believe, that I must necessarily be hard pressed with hunger to beg at such an hour in the heat of the day. I reckoned it would be the means of bringing me both provisions and money; nevertheless I traversed

the whole of one district, without reaping any other from my lamentations, with which I made the streets ring, than rebuffs and reproaches.

I gained another quarter, in hopes of finding hearts there more sensible to my cries. I rapped at a door with my stick, no one answered. I rapped again three or four times very loudly; but, whilst I persisted in trying to make some one in the house acknowledge he heard me; a kitchen-boy appeared at a window, who was apparently washing some vessel, and who, for the reward of my obstinacy, poured down on my head a kettle of boiling water; after which he began to cry out, Garre l'eau là bas, take care there below of the water.

As soon as I felt myself so warmly baptised, I gave a frightful yell, and made a thousand grimaces, as if I had suffered the most excruciating torments

In a moment I saw myself surrounded by a great crowd of people: some blamed the scullion, but all the others told me I did very wrong in going to disturb honest people who were asleep, and that if I had no desire myself to take some repose, I ought not at least to trouble that of others. There were, however, some who were moved with compassion, and who, in order to console me for this sad accident, put some money in my hand, with which I went to dry myself at home. It is very well done, said I, on the way: Will you never be contented with what is necessary? What devil has bewitched you, in urging you to do what you see no one else do?

I was already very near home, when one of the oldest of our society, and my neighbour, called me. I went into a cellar, where he lived. He handed me an old three-legged stool, and, as

soon as I was seated, asked me from whence I came, from what bath did I arrive, and who had so well adjusted me. I related to him the adventure. He laughed with all his heart. He was an old fellow, a native of Cordova, born, reared, and doomed to die in beggary. My poor Gusman, said he, I fear very much you will never be but a ninny-hammer; a blood too warm runs in thy veins. You wish to be master before you are a scholar. Do you not see very well, you have acted ill in withdrawing thyself from our customs? But since we are both from the same country, and that thy youth renders thee excusable, I will teach thee all thy duties. First, my friend, learn that no one gives charity at Rome after twelve o'clock at noon. The citizens, as well as people of rank, take at that time what we call * la sieste in Spain, and

* An afternoon's nap.

the greatest trespass you can commit is to awake or hinder them from sleeping. When a poor man has twice with a loud voice at a door asked for charity, and that no one answers him, it is a mark there is no one at home, at least not for him, and of course he ought to pass on, without stopping there to lose his time. Be not imprudent enough to open a door that is shut, still less to go into that house; beg from the street, lest the dogs of that mansion, who know very well how to distinguish us from other men, and who, looking on us as their rivals, hate us most cordially, should make you repent your rudeness.

One of the best advices, continued he, I can give you, is to inform you, that you are a Spaniard; which supposes in thee a disposition ready to quarrel with those who shall refuse you alms. So when you will address any one of

those uncharitable rich, who not only never assist us, but even reproach with acrimony our idleness, think not of replying to those severe expressions but with words full of mildness and humility. Another very important counsel: If perchance, (this is what has happened to me a hundred times in my life,) you approach a gentleman, who, at the moment you are asking charity of him, takes off his glove and puts his hand into his pocket, I forbid you to feel any joy at that action; but if you perceive that he has searched in his pocket but to pull out his handkerchief, do not testify any impatience, or grumble between your teeth; for perhaps there is near him another gentleman, who would give you charity, and whom your murmurs would turn from his design.

After the old Cordovan had given me those political precepts, he informed

me how one might cause a false leprosy, and all kinds of ulcers; how to inflame a leg; by what address an arm would appear entirely dislocated, and how to make one's face paler than that of a corpse. In a word, he possessed a thousand curious secrets, which he had the goodness to communicate to me, as well through friendship as from a fear of going into the other world without leaving them behind him with some one: in fact, he died a few days after.

Notwithstanding the textuary disposition of our beggary statutes, I judged it not proper to impart to my brethren the secrets of the old Cordovan, who had so privately revealed them to me. We, however, lived all together in perfect union. We assembled every night about ten or twelve of us, and passed the time in disputing on the new exclamations which each of us in-

vented. There were even some beggars who discovered certain forms of benedictions, of which they made a considerable traffic, and which they sold to others, who bought them merely on account of their novelty.

The days of festivals we took care to be very early to those churches, when a plenary indulgence was to be there. We hastened to take possession of the best places: those were near the holy water stone, or at the entrance of the chapel near the *station**. We remained there the whole morning, and very often left the city that night to scour the villages round about, as well as the farms and country seats near the city, from whence we seldom returned without being well laden with bacon, bread,

* Stations in chapels are certain places where penitents recite, either standing or kneeling, the prayers attached to their penitentiary pilgrimage.

eggs, and cheese, sometimes with old clothes too, so well we knew how to excite pity in the hearts of those honest country people. If any one of consideration happened to appear on our road, as far as we could see him, we began to form a decent concert of plaintive voices, and to ask charity, in order to give him sufficient time to put his hand in his pocket, otherwise he might pass us by without wishing to stop for that purpose.

When we met several citizens together, and that we had leisure to prepare ourselves to address them, each of us played his own part; one acted the lame man, another the blind; this fellow the maimed, and that the dumb; one drew his mouth to a horrible distortion, or walked with his feet clubbed or turned in; another hopped upon crutches. We formed, at length, all kinds of figures,

taking care to have always at the head of our band the most able and deformed objects, in order to render the scene more moving. It would be well worth one's while to hear the vows and invocations we made use of to draw the marrow from their purses. We wished that God would give them children, bless their commerce, and preserve their health. By such wishes, we engaged them to fulfil ours. There was not a party of pleasure or festival, out of whose wing we drew not some good quills: we were for that animals of sagacious scent. We failed not to betake ourselves in small numbers to the places where those fêtes were given, and to find there, as smell feasts, good spunging quarters. The hotels of cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and ambassadors, all the houses of the grandees, were open to us; we took possession of them

one after another. Thus we possessed *all*, though we had *nothing*.

I know not how my comrades found themselves afflicted, when they received charity from the hands of a beautiful lady; as for me, miserable sinner, when I presented myself before a young person, who charmed me by her figure, I asked alms, staring at her with all the rapturous emotions of love. If she gave me money herself, I pressed tenderly her hand between mine, and kissed it before it escaped me. But I did this rash action with an air so respectful, or more preperly speaking, so hypocritical, that the lady not being on her guard against my pleasure, took this insolent advance for a transport of gratitude.

The pleasures of life, which people suppose formed for the great of this world and for the rich, are rather the portion of beggars, who taste the

sweets of them with more licence, more liking and tranquillity than they. Though the poor have no other advantages than that of being able to ask and receive without embarrassment or shame; it is a privilege the rest of mankind have not, if we except their sovereigns, who may also without blushing ask from their people. But the difference between sovereigns and beggars is, that the former demand money often from the poor, whilst on the contrary, the others never ask any but from people richer than themselves. There is then no condition happier than that of beggars; but all know not their own happiness. Most men solely occupied with the delicacies of animal life, enjoy but a part of their felicity. They feel not how sweet it is to live in independence, without law-suits, or fear of having let out their money badly; to be above

the intrigues of state, of places, pensions, trade, and all the other embarrassments, that people are plunged into even to their death. Without doubt, the first that embraced this kind of life must have been a great philosopher.

Most willingly would I believe beggars enfranchised from the power of fortune, if from time to time that malicious goddess did not take pleasure in exercising it on them, by making them experience some little misfortunes, such as that, which happened to me in the city of Gaëte, where the devil tempted me to go through curiosity, imagining that a man, who could already set himself up as a first character in his trade, would no sooner be in that country, than a shower of charities would fall on him. I was no sooner arrived there, than covering my head with a false scuf, which I knew admirably well how to make, I took my station at a

church-door. The governor of the city passed by me by chance, and after having looked on me with some attention, gave me alms. A great number of the inhabitants of both sexes followed his example, and this was a benediction I enjoyed for five or six days; but covetousness, as people say, bursts the sack. One holy-day my scurf appearing to me a thread-bare invention, I took it into my head to have an ulcer on my leg, and very soon formed one, observing the secret the old Cordovan had taught me.

Having then fixed my leg in a condition to bring me in, as I thought, as much as a good vineyard, I went to post myself advantageously at the door of another church. There beginning with a doleful voice to express the pains my ulcer occasioned, I drew on me the eyes of all who were passing. I thought even I excited their compas-

sion, though my ruddy complexion, for I had neglected to render it pale, gave the lie to my complaints, and ought to inspire some mistrust; but the good people did not inspect things so closely, and I received more money alone, than all the beggars who were there, and who wished me to the devil with my ulcer.

The governor, for my sins, came to hear mass in that church; he cast his eyes on me, and knew me by my voice. It would have been impossible to discover me otherwise, as I had then my head tied up with a napkin which came down to my nose. He was a man who had some penetration, and a great deal of experience. As soon as had recollected me, I imagine he said within himself:—About four days back I have seen this impostor, can it be possible that an ulcer could come on his leg within that time? There is something

in this; let us fathom the affair a little: my friend, said he addressing me, you are quite naked, your misery touches me to the quick; follow me, I will give you a shirt.

I had the impudence to obey him, without suspecting him of any bad design; for if I doubted ever so little that he had, I assure you, notwithstanding his retinue, I would soon have escaped the chastisement he was preparing for me. When we had arrived at his palace, he looked at me with an air so cold and so severe, I conceived from it a very bad presage. He then asked me, if it was not I whom he had seen a few days back at a church-door, with my head all covered with scurf. I grew pale at that question, and had not the effrontery to deny it. He thereupon wished to see my head, and remarking on it not the smallest appearance of scab; Tell me, said he, by what

singular remedy you have been so perfectly cured in so short a time: moreover, added he, I cannot conceive how with the rosy face, which I see you have, you can have an ulcer on your leg: My lord, said I, quite disconcerted, and not knowing what to say, I don't know——but it is God, who wills it.

I was still more perplexed, when I heard him order one of his lackeys to go bring a surgeon. I understood what that signified, and would have made an attempt to escape, if the door had not been locked; but it was to my cost, and there was no other resource of getting away. At length the surgeon arrived. He examined my leg; and all-knowing a man as he was, he would have, perhaps, been deceived, if the Governor had not told him quite low his reasons for believing me an impostor. After that the surgeon had little diffi-

culty to discover the truth. He looked again on the ulcer, and said with an air of capacity, This beggar has no more sore on his leg, than I have on my eye. Let some one bring me a little warm water, and I will prove to you what I advance. They warmed immediately some water, with which the surgeon bathed, and rubbed my leg, which became in an instant so sound and so neat, that I had not the smallest apology to make.

Then the Governor judging it to be his duty to recompese my address, caused the shirt to be given me, which he had the goodness to promise; at the same time, thirty good lashes of a whip were scored on my bare pelt, by the hands of an able-bodied servant, for the expense of my travels; after which I was ordered to quit the city immediately, assured by them, if I should take it into my head to return there

again, I would fare a good deal worse. There was a great deal of superfluity in forbidding me to set foot in Gaëte; it was sufficient to let my good treatment there take away every desire of returning back. I withdrew then immediately from that damned city, shrugging my shoulders, and regained as soon as possible the papal territories. I gave a thousand benedictions to my dear Rome, as soon as I perceived it. I wept with joy on seeing it again, and wished to have arms long enough to embrace it.

I went to rejoin my comrades, to whom I took good care not to discover my late equipment. If they had known it, what fine sport would they not have with me for a long time. I told them only that I had traversed through curiosity some neighbouring villages, but that I thought out of Rome there was no salvation for peo-

ple of our species. I had, in fact, committed a great folly to quit that city of benediction, where we were so well fed, and received every day some trifle of money. Grain by grain the hen fills her crop. We hoarded up our silver, and after having converted it to gold, we carried it sewed up in our old rags, under pieces, which concealed as much as would purchase whole suits. One might say that we were all stitched up with gold. There were some old rascals among us, who carried whole treasures upon them. The poor are avaricious and cruel; they possess those two vices to a supreme degree. I can quote a very singular example of their cruelty and avarice, in relating the history of a beggarman, whom I have known. It is curious enough to merit a place here.

A poor beggar of Genoa, named Pantalon Castelleto, having been mar-

ried at Florence, had by this marriage a son, whom he determined to put in a condition of living above labor or servitude. Abusing for that purpose the facility which there is of dislocating the delicate limbs of a child newly born, he had the barbarity to maim his own. Perhaps, reader, you are going to stop me in this place, to tell me that this is but too common a trick with beggars. I grant it; the beggars of all the nations of the world are subject to this inhumanity, in order to excite the compassion of the public; but our Pantalon as a Genoese wished to surpass all other fathers in this respect. He disfigured his son in such a manner as to render him an unparalleled monster of deformity. This child of misfortune, in whom all was deformed, with the exception of his tongue and arms, having passed his infancy, went through the streets in a kind of cage on a little

ass, whom with his hands the only members left him he himself conducted.

If his body had not the human form, in recompence his wit was excellent. He gave some marks of it as he advanced in age. He made above all such pleasant and satyrical repartees, every one was charmed with them. He received unlimitted charities, which he owed not less to the elegance of his wit, than to the pity which his person inspired. Made as he was, he lived seventy-two years, after which he fell sick, and perceiving indeed that he would die of his illness, he entered into himself, asked for a confessor, a learned and good divine whom he knew, and having conversed with him respecting his spiritual as well as temporal affairs, sent for a public notary, and dictated to him his last "*Will and Testament*" in these terms:—" I leave my soul to God, who has created it, and my

body to the earth, and I wish to be interred in my own parish. Item. I order that my ass be sold, and that the money which shall accrue from this sale shall be employed to pay the expenses of my interment. As for my pack-saddle, I bequeath it to the Grand Duke my Lord, to whom it belongs by right, and whom I name the executor of my will and my universal heir."

This beggar died a few days after, and his will rendered public became the general topic of the city of Florence. Every one having known the deceased for a man, who had been all his life pleasant and jocose, imagined he had not done this act, which appeared so burlesque, but in order to make the public still laugh after his death. The Grand Duke, however, thought quite otherwise. As he had a hundred times heard talk of the testator, and of his ready wit, he suspected the will was

not without some mystery. In order to ultimately investigate the affair, he caused the pack-saddle, to which he was the sole heir, to be brought to his palace. He ordered it to be ripped up in the presence of the whole court, which was not a little surprised to see tumble out different pieces of gold to the value of three thousand six hundred crowns, of four hundred maravedis each. Every one knew after that, it was through the advice of his confessor, he had thus disposed of his money, of which the Grand Duke, as a just and pious prince made very good use, as he employed the whole in purchasing some masses for ever for the testator.

CHAP. III.

Of the Compassion which Gusman caused in a Cardinal, and what was the Consequence.—He becomes Page to his Eminence, and played a thousand Tricks.

ONE fine day having risen very early, according to my usual custom, I went to sit at the Cardinal's door, who passed for one of the most charitable men in Rome. I had taken care to inflame one of my legs, upon which one might see an ulcer to brave the penetration of the most clear-sighted surgeons. I had not forgotten this turn to render my face pale. I would not have been excuseable to commit twice the same fault. I very soon pierced the air with the most lamentable complaints my voice was able to form, and asking with symptoms of the most excruciating pain for charity. I excited universal compassion in the breasts of the ser-

vants, as they were occasionally going in and out. They chearfully bestowed their mite, but I was throwing in a baiting pellet for a better fish. It was their master I wished to hook. He appeared at length; as soon as I perceived him, I redoubled my cries, my complaints, my writhings of pain, and accosted him in these terms:—"O noble Christian, friend of Jesus Christ, have pity on a poor afflicted sinner, who finds himself lamed in the flower of his age. Let your eminence, my Lord, be touched with my misery, and praised be the passion of our Redeemer." The Cardinal, who was a holy man, stopped before me to hear my appeal, and seeing but Jesus Christ in my person, said to the servants who attended him:—Take this poor creature in your arms, carry him to my apartment. Let some one take off those old rags which cover him, give him some clean

linen to wear, put him in my own bed, and prepare another for myself in the next chamber. All this was immediately executed. O charity, thou oughtest to cover with shame so many prelates, who believe Heaven in their debt, if they pay the smallest attention to the misery of a poor man. My Cardinal did not content himself with that; he sent for two of the most famous surgeons in Rome, recommended to them to examine my leg, to do all in their power to cure me, and after having promised to pay them well, he went out to go where his affairs called him.

Upon the faith of this promise, the surgeons began to examine my ulcer, which appeared to them at first incurable. In fact, a gangrene seemed inevitable, or that it already began to appear. That, however, was only the effect of some herbs, and would last

only a certain space of time, after which the leg would return to its natural state, if the same secret were not renewed. My examiners quitted their cloaks, drew our their cases, asked for some fire in a chafing-dish, some fine white linen, together with some milk and eggs. Whilst every one was busy in the house in giving them what they wished for, they began to question me on my complaint, to inform themselves how long I had it, and if I knew not what was its primary cause; if I drank wine, and what wasmy usual diet; in a word, they put all those questions to me, which those gentlemen on like occasions are accustomed to do, and to which I answered nothing, I was so troubled and alarmed with the frightful preparations, which presented themselves to my view. I was in a great perplexity, not knowing what saint to make my vows to; for I did not believe

there was any in Heaven, who would wish to intercede for a knave. I remembered then what had happened me in Gaëte, and feared even not to get away upon such cheap terms. The surgeons, after having turned and returned my leg for the twentieth time, withdrew to another room to converse more particularly on the subject, and to communicate to each other their respective observations. I had a frightful presentiment of this consultation. I apprehended they would determine on cutting off my leg. I leaped out of bed in order to follow and listen to them, fully resolved to confess the truth, if I saw them inclined to amputation. I stood at the door, and lending a very attentive ear to their discourse, I heard one of those gentlemen say to the other:—Brother, behold wherewith to keep us employed a long time, at least if we would understand

each other; an inflamation is in the leg, we can carry that very far.—You banter me, replied the other, there is no more inflammation in that leg than there is on my hand. It is a complaint we would get the better of in less than two days.—You do not think so, replied he who had spoken first; by St. Cosmas I know an ulcer too well, and maintain that this one is even gangrened.—No, no, my friend, returned the other; believe me our patient is an impostor. It is no real sore at all. I know very well how he has caused this false ulcer. I have already seen such ones before, and know the herbs this knave makes use of to put himself in that condition.

At these words the surgeon, who had been my dupe, was entirely ashamed of it; but imagining that it concerned his honour to persist in his opinion, he yielded not to that of his

comrade. This brought on a dispute, which would have become very violent if the more skilful of the two had not had the address to terminate it, by beseeching his brother chip to examine my leg again:—Consider it, said he, with more attention, you will doubt no longer of the imposture.—Most willingly, answered the other surgeon; I will look at it closer, and if I find in effect the ulcer such as you say, I will acknowledge your superior skill with all my heart.—That is not enough, said the other; in confessing your mistake, you must still agree that I deserve a third of the fees more than you.—It is unjust, cried his companion. Do not applaud yourself too much for such a discovery. I can do it as well as you, and insist that we divide equally the fee which his Eminence will give us. Upon this the two grew warm, and sooner than yield one to the other,

they resolved upon declaring all to the Cardinal.

When I saw they determined on this resolution, I hesitated not in taking mine. I entered abruptly into the room where they were; I threw myself at their feet, and weeping bitterly, for I had a particular talent that way, addressed them in these terms:—"My dear gentlemen, have pity on your like. I am a man as your honors! You know the rich are so hard-hearted now-a-days, that the poor in order to soften them, are obliged to cover their bodies with sores, and *martyrize* themselves. Still it often happens to us to put ourselves in a situation of suffering without any fruit, or at least for a miserable charity, which arises to us from it. Besides, what will you gain by discovering my imposture? You will lose the recompence, which has been mised you, and which cannot es-

cape you, if you wish that we three shall act in concert with each other. You may, with every confidence, depend on me. The fear of chastisement answers for my discretion."

My surgeons, after having made their reflections, determined on profiting of the opportunity which offered of catching the Cardinal's money. As soon as our flutes were tuned we got back to the chamber of his Eminence, where those two gentlemen, having seated me on the bed, began to examine my leg again. They clapped on such plasters and drugs, as they thought most proper to still keep it in the same condition. Afterwards they bandaged it, rolled a napkin over it, and seeing the Cardinal at that moment returning, they took me in their arms, as if I had been really afflicted, and laid me in the bed again. His Eminence, uneasy and very impatient to know their opinion of my ulcer,

which had appeared to him so very dangerous, questioned them with an air of eagerness and zeal. My lord, said one of the surgeons gravely to him, this poor lad is in a deplorable situation. He has already a gangrene in that leg: we hope, however, please God, to bring him through; but we will want a good deal of time to bring it about. He is very happy, said then the other surgeon, to have fallen this day into [illegible] hands. One day later he was a dead man, and it is without doubt to save his life that Heaven has sent him to the door of your Eminence. This report caused great pleasure in my lord, who told them they might employ all the time they wished, provided they cured me. He besought them anew to neglect nothing in order to succeed, whilst, on his part, he would take care I should be well treated in his house. They promised to answer the confi-

dence he had in them, and assured him they would not fail in coming both of them twice a day to see me, because it would be necessary for them, said they, to consult together on every observation they might make on my disorder. After having spoken thus, they withdrew. This rendered my mind more tranquil; for to that moment, I had [illegible] those two surgeons. I was in dread they would discover my knavery, though they appeared desirous of being [illegible] me. The scoundrels [illegible] the room three months, which I found longer than three centuries, so difficult it is to lose the habitude of playing and begging. I had in vain been fed, and slept as well as my lord himself, all that did not hinder me from being tired of my confinement. In a word, I pressed, I tormented so irresistibly my surgeons, in order to oblige them to finish the

comedy, they submitted at length to my importunities. They ceased managing my ulcer, and, when they saw my leg in its natural state, they informed the good Cardinal, who admired such a good cure, and sent away those quacks, after having paid them as well as if they had deserved it. His Eminence, during the course of my false illness, had very often visited me. I had had many conversations with this holy prelate, who, having discovered in me a sort of wit which pleased him, conceived a friendship for me. In order to give me a shining mark of it, he wished to attach me to his service, and to place me in the number of his pages. An honour which I was too dazzled with to refuse it.

Behold me now all at once become a page. It was to have made a great leap, although between a knave and a page there is but the hand difference,

er, more properly speaking, with regard of their respective habits, they are one and the same. Accustomed to the soups of Egypt, I loved nothing better than the tavern; that was my centre. I found myself a great deal short in my expectations in a house where nothing was done but by compass and measure; where one time, with a flambeau in my hand, I was employed in going up and down stairs, to light people who were coming in or going out, and another time I was obliged to dance attendance in an anti-chamber, where I continued two whole hours, waiting whatever orders they would choose to give me. Always ready to follow the coaches night and day, or indeed to attend table, and to devour with my eyes all the dishes I saw laid. In a word, it was necessary I should be in continual waiting, to render all kinds of services,

and that from the first day of January to the thirty-first of December.

My lord had in a closet near his own room a large deal box filled with all kinds of comfits, which he loved dearly. There were, among other things, some pears from Aranjuez, prunes from Genoa, melons from Grenada, citrons from Seville, oranges from Placentia, lemons from Murcia, cu[illegible] from Valencia, golden pippins [illegible] a: roots from Malaga; [illegible] wor[illegible] t[illegible] is the most exquisit[illegible] fam[illegible] in the composition of co[illegible], was [illegible]ved in this happy box, which made [illegible] teeth water every time his Eminence gave me the key, to bring him out of it what he wanted. But what vexed me most was, that his Eminence strove always to be present, as if my fidelity had been suspected by him. I was piqued with his mistrust, which failed not to irritate the desire I had already of tast-

ing those beautiful preserved fruits. At length the temptation became such, that, not being able to resist it any longer, I thought only of the means to satisfy it. The box, a yard wide, and two and a half yards long, had the lock in the middle. I therefore resolved to make use of a flat stick to lift the corner of the lid; then wedging in other sticks somewhat thicker from space to space towards the lock, I made by this scheme an opening at the corner where I began, large enough for me to thrust my little arm through it. But as I could not choose only as far as my hand reached, I had the industry to fasten a crook to the end of a stick, in order to draw to me the farthest off fruit. It is thus I rendered myself master of the box without having the key of it.

Though the box contained a great quantity of fruit, I employed my sticks so often, the pilfering soon became ma-

nifest. The Cardinal had a mind to taste a beautiful citron of Seville, which he had remarked the evening before;—not finding it there, he was greatly astonished. He called his principal officers, and spoke to them with an angry air, that he wished to know which of his domestics had the insolence to open his box, and touch his fruit, which he so carefully preserved. He charged the major-domo, who was a rigid and melancholy priest, to make the most diligent inquiry concerning the author of so hardy a thievery. The major-domo's suspicions naturally fell on the pages. He ordered us to assemble in a hall, in order to search us one after another; but he had in vain rummaged our pockets, and made use of threats, but advanced not a whit in the discovery: I had eaten and already digested the citron.

This affair at length was lulled; no

one spoke more of it. However, my lord did not forget it, and I, for my part, kept myself on my guard. I dared not, during some days, return to the box, or even to look at it. I had taken a liking to the comfits, and, far from renouncing it, I only waited an opportunity to be able to steal them with impunity, which offered itself one afternoon when my master was at play with some other cardinals. I imagined that whilst he would be employed playing, I should have all the opportunity I wanted to perpetrate my intention. In this confidence I went to look for my utensils, which I had safely hidden, and stole into the closet without any one perceiving it. I had already raised the lid and thrust my arm into the box, when my lord, drawn by a pressing necessity, came into the chamber where he lay. I heard him, and wishing immediately to withdraw my arm,

did it with such bustle and precipitation, that I made one of my sticks strike against the ceiling, and the lid to fall down suddenly on my arm, in such a manner that I remained caught like a sparrow in a crib. The Cardinal, having heard the noise of the stick falling, trembled for his preserved fruit. He entered the closet, and, finding me pinned in the fact, Ah! ah! my little friend Guzman, cried he, is it you, then, who are stealing my comfits. The faces I was making, and the mortification I felt to see myself surprised, gave him such an inclination to laugh, that he could not refrain from bursting out into a great fit of laughter. He called even the other cardinals, to make them enjoy my confusion. They quitted their play, ran at his calling them, and, after they had well diverted themselves at my expence, besought him to pardon me for this turn, telling him I would

never do the like again. But my master was inexorable. He granted only to their entreaties, that instead of twenty-four lashes of a whip, which I appeared to him to have well deserved, I should receive only the half. I could not get over those; and Mr. Nicholas, my mortal enemy, being charged with giving them to me in his own apartment, acquitted himself of his commission with so good a heart, that I felt the flogging a fortnight after.

But if he satisfied his hatred in that, I assure you I satisfied my resentment very soon after. Behold the manner: We were then in the time of the gnats, and there was this year a prodigious quantity of them in Rome. The major-domo, who loved his ease, complaining one day before me of those cursed animals, said he was greatly tormented with them in his chamber. Upon that I put in my prate: Sir, said I, it will

be your own fault if you are not delivered from them for ever. We have in Spain an infallible secret to protect us from the trespasses of those animals. I will tell it to you, if you wish. You will oblige me very much, answered Nicholas, to inform me what I am to do for that purpose. You have, replied I coldly, but to put near your bolster a large parcel of parsley steeped in vinegar; they will no sooner smell it, than they'll come in swarms to cast themselves on it, and a moment after they will all fall stone-dead.

He believed me, and that same night he wished to make a trial of my infallible secret: but he, by that, only irritated the gnats, who assaulted him more unmercifully than ever. They thought to eat off his nose, and tear his eyes out. He gave himself a thousand boxes in the face, eager to kill the little stinging devils, according as he felt

them traversing his countenance. In a word, he fought like a fury against them till day-break, the sight of which gave him to understand he did not come off victorious from the battle, and that his enemies, whom he believed to have crushed to atoms, had nearly all escaped him. I failed not to go and see him in the morning, and judged very well by his swoln eyes, that the gnats had tormented him to some purpose. He declared to me at first my secret was worth nothing. I feigned astonishment. It must be, then, answered I, that you have not left the parsley long enough in the vinegar, or that the vinegar which you made use of had not sufficient strength; for I assure you, that in carrying every night into my chamber a bunch of parsley well soaked in vinegar, I have banished the gnats, which came there before in great numbers. The steward was fool enough to believe a

second time. He put a bundle of parsley in the strongest vinegar he could get. He left it soaking in it six good hours. He then not only strewed his bed with it, but all his bed-room too. So God knows what was the consequence; I believe all the gnats in the neighbourhood assembled for the purpose of devouring the poor devil. They disfigured him in such a manner, that he had all the appearance of a leprosy. He would willingly have knocked my brains out the day following, if he had met one. But his Eminence, to prevent any accident, having summoned us both before him, forbid him to maltreat me, and made me a slight remonstrance, as a man who had more mind to laugh at the trick I had played, than to make any crime of it: Why, said this good prelate to me, have you done this piece of service to Mr. Nicholas? My lord, answered, I why, when he

had orders to give me twelve lashes of a whip for the comfits, has he given me more than twenty on his own account? I have revenged my wounds by those he now himself wears.

That passed on so. However since the adventure of the box, I was no longer a subject of the page-chamber. My chastisement was not confined to the whip; I was rusticated and obliged to pass to the chamberlain's quarters to serve among the lackeys, waiting until I should be recalled to my first post. The chamberlain might pass for a good man full of honor and integrty, but he was a little too scrupulous, and even a little fanatic. He had in the environs of our hotel some relations, who were very honest girls, and so poor, that he sent them every day two-thirds of his share, to enable them to subsist. He went also sometimes to dine or sup with them; which often gave occasion

to the officers of our house, and particularly the steward, to rally him before his Eminence, in order to divert him.

One night the chamberlain having returned from his relatives' place a little indisposed, retired to his apartment, and lay down. The Cardinal not seeing him appear at supper, asked for him:—My lord, said one of his officers, he is not well. His Eminence wished to know what ailed him, and in order to be informed, bid one of his gentlemen go see him without delay. The officer acquitted himself of his commission very exactly, and returned with news, that the indisposition of the patient was so slight, that he had need but of repose to reinstate him in his health. That passed on so; but secretary Nicholas, always ready to do some mischief to the chamberlain, having learned the morning following he

was better and still asleep, had the malice to introduce softly into his bed-chamber, through the ministry of a lackey whom he gained over, one of our pages disguised as a women. The page, who had got his lesson, well concealed himself behind the off-curtains, at the bed-side, or behind a tapestry. The secretary went off immediately to go to the Cardinal, who asked him how the sick man was.—My lord, answered Nicholas, I am told he has passed the night very badly, but that he is better now. His Eminence, who loved all his servants, as a father loves his children, took upon this report the charitable resolution of paying our chamberlain a visit, who to be sure was awakened to be apprised of the honour his master intended to do him.

My lord betook himself immediately to the chamber of the sick man, and sat on a chair near his

bed; but scarcely was he seated, when he saw suddenly slip off the bed-side the metamorphosed page, who counterfeiting to a miracle the embarrassed female endeavoring to escape, got off at length, saying:—Ah good God, I am lost! What will his Eminence think of me! The Cardinal, who had not been prepared for this scene, and who believed his chamberlain a holy personage, appeared extremely surprised at this sight; but whatever was his astonishment, it amounted to nothing like that of the scrupulous chamberlain, who, as if struck with a horrible vision, cried out, It was assuredly the devil who had come to tempt him. That caused in him so great an agitation, that in the confusion his senses were in, he was on the point of jumping out of bed in his shirt before his Eminence, and taking to his heels. As all the servants, who were present, were in the plot with the

secretary, they could not refrain from laughing; which made the Cardinal judge, it was a trick they played on the chamberlain.

I returned from performing a commission, with which I had been charged that morning. I found the chamberlain very sad. I besought him to tell me the cause of his sadness. He told the adventure, saying he did not doubt but Mr. Nicholas was the author of it. —I would give, my dear Gusman, added he, one of my eyes to be revenged and play some good trick on the secretary; but I have need for that of thy counsels. A first wag like thee will soon find out some mischief equivalent to his. In fact, answered I, if I were in your place, the secretary should not go to the Pope to seek absolution, I would make him do penance well for his trick. But consider he is my superior, and that it does not belong to

me to intermeddle in the affairs of officers who are above me.

I had in vain represented to the irritated chamberlain, that I dared not espouse his quarrel, lest I should repent it; I could not get over it. His entreaties, the friendship I had for him, the hatred I felt for Nicholas, and finally, my natural propensity to do mischief, determined me, to second his resentment.

I bought some rosin, mastic, and incense. I reduced them to powder, and put them mixed in a paper, which I kept in my pocket, waiting for a proper opportunity to employ them. It presented itself a little time after, such as I could desire. One day that the post was setting off for Spain, and that Mr. Secretary was very busy, I went in the morning to his quarters, and entered his wardrobe, where his servant was; James, said I, my dear friend James, I

have some bread and a slice of fried ham below, I want but a bottle of good wine to have a good breakfast. If you can furnish me with it, you shall be my partner, otherwise I will seek out another.—Mr. Gusman, answered he immediately, you have found your man; I know very well where to get a bottle of excellent wine, you have but to wait here, I will be with you in a moment. At these words he disappeared and left me in the ward-robe. Then looking about for the breeches of Mr. Nicholas, for I knew the secretary did not put them on that morning, and had only on him a light morning gown, in order to write more at his ease, I perceived them on the back of a chair. I took and turned them inside out, and after having well powdered the lining with the rosin, mastic, and incense, put them back again as they were, in such a manner that no one would have imagined I

had laid a hand on them. James did not delay long returning with the wine, but at the time we were settling ourselves to breakfast, his master called him to aid him in dressing himself, and kept him in his room, so that I was obliged to go empty the bottle with another instead of him, whilst waiting with impatience until I should see my powder operate. It had its full effect at the Cardinal's dinner, where there was a great number of guests. We were then in the dog-days, the extraordinary heat of the weather was very favourable to my design. Mr. Nicholas was in waiting with the other officers. I remarked very soon by his actions, that he felt a great itching in his posteriors, where through respect he dared not put his hand. He knew not what countenance to keep, and by misfortune for him, the more he shrugged and twisted, the more he increased

his torment. The powder stuck in the hair and flesh, and pestered him in such a manner as if he felt the points of a thousand needles. This was not all, the Cardinal having some orders to give him, called him, and whilst he was whispering him, his Eminence stopped his nose all at once, saying,—What have you upon you, Mr. Nicholas? You stink of rosin and incense. The secretary reddened at these words, and withdrew from my lord, who perceiving that almost all my comrades, whom the chamberlain had apprised of the trick were with great glee diverting themselves at the poor devil's expence, suspected me of having played some new prank. As I was very near him, and wore one of my grave looks, Gusman, said he, what subject of laughter have your companions now? Because, said I, Mr. Secretary has taken it into his head to-day to purge himself with

turpentine. The Cardinal, at this answer, burst out laughing, and all at table followed his example. Nicholas judged by that some one had done him some mischief, and not being able to support the jeering laughter, with which the dining-room ecchoed at his expence, made off with a precipitation, which redoubled the pleasure of the company. When he was gone, my lord, impatient to know what trick had been played on the secretary, addressed the chamberlain, who concealed no circumstance of it from him. This last adventure made me pass in the palace for a person truly formidable.

At length, after two months of exile, I was recalled. I returned to the chamber of the pages, where I was re-established in my first functions. I acquitted myself with as much effrontery as if nothing had happened. This made me remember the fable of Shame, the Air, and the Water, which were

travelling together. In separating they asked where they might see each other again. The Air said, you will always find me on the tops of mountains. As for me, said the Water, you will be sure to find me in the bowels of the earth. Oh! as for me, said Shame in its turn, if you once lose sight of me, you will never find me again. Nothing is so true; I was no longer capable of shame for committing a bad action; I only felt ashamed to be caught in the fact. In short, I was so inclined to knavery, I would, I believe, have let myself fall from the top of the castle of St. Angelo, if I saw any thing at the bottom worth stealing.

As the good Cardinal loved his preserved fruits, especially those which came from the Canaries in barrels or rundlets, he bought some very often, and when the rundlets were empty, they belonged to the first servant who

secured them. I had one which came to me that way, and in which I kept my handkerchiefs, cards, dice, and *other such like effects of a poor page.*

One day my lord was informed that twelve small barrels of those sorts of fruit were newly imported by a merchant on the quay. His Eminence charged the majar-domo to buy them for him. I heard him give the orders, and said at the same time within myself; It will be a great misfortune, if I do not make myself master of one of those barrels. I retired to my chamber to consider at liberty on the means of bringing it about, and determined on this plan. I emptied immediately the barrel wherein my old tatters lay, then having filled it with clay and straw, I put on the head, as well as the hoops, and coopered it so completely, that one would have imagined it to be quite new. After which I went down in the court

to wait for those they were bringing. I did not wait long till I saw them arrive with the major-domo at their head, who commanded us to carry them to the closet, where his Eminence used to lock up his fruits. Each of my comrades took up a barrel. I took care to be last to carry mine in order to walk after all the rest; I had my reasons for that. We were necessarily to pass by my chamber; so that seeing myself followed by no one, I slipped in, and changing the barrel in the twinkling of an eye, I carried that, which was stowed with clay and straw, and laid it brazenly with the others, in presence of my lord, whom the pleasure of seeing them had brought there. When the prelate had looked on them, he eyed me with a rallying air, and said,—Well, Gusman, what do you think of those barrels? One cannot so easily thrust the arm into them, and wedges I think would

be very useless instruments here.—Instead of wedges, replied I coldly, one can use the nails, and the hand sometimes does the office of the arm.—Oh! I defy thee, replied his Eminence, to pilfer those barrels: that is not so easy as to lift the lid of a box.—I grant it, replied I, but I beseech you, my lord, don't defy me in any thing; for the devil might suggest to me the inclination of deceiving you.—Ah! willingly, my child, cried the Cardinal, I give you leave to steal, if you can, those comfits, and eight days to think on the means. If you are crafty enough to suceeed, I will not only leave you the fruit which you shall steal, but I promise you as much more; on condition that you on your side will submit to some chastisement, if your genius be obliged to yield to the difficulty of the enterprise.

That is just, said I, my lord, and I

say done to the alternative. Yes, if I have not made my aim good in twenty-four hours, for I ask not eight days for so trifling an affair, I will suffer any punishment which it shall please Mr. Nicholas to order. You may well judge that since the business of the gnats, and that of the turpentine, I cannot have in him too partial a judge. The Cardinal smiled at these last words, and it was at length agreed that I should be punished or recompensed the day following.

What precautions did not his Eminence take to secure his barrels from my clutches. Besides having the key of the closet where they were himself, he set a guard of his most faithful domestics, in whom he principally confided, at the door. The day following, at his dinner, this good prelate cast his eyes on me, and, seeing me a little thoughtful, said to me with a smile,

Gusman, I guess very well the subject of your pensive meditation; you are thinking sadly, that you will receive very soon a round hundred from the vigorous arm of Mr. Nicholas. It is the least of my thoughts, said I; the comfits, my lord, are already in my possession.

The Cardinal, persuaded that no one had entered his cabinet, or could have touched his rundlets, admired my effrontery: he rallied me on the stirrup-leathers, which were, he said, so justly due to me. I let him divert himself as long as he pleased, and when I saw the fruits were going to be served up, I slily stole out of the dining-room, in order to go to my chamber, where, being arrived, I drew out of my barrel some comfits, with which I filled a bason I had taken off the side-board for that purpose, and which I hastened to lay before his Eminence on the table.

He was strangely surprised at those comfits: he could scarcely believe his eyes. Here, said he to the chamberlain, intrusting him with the key of the cabinet, go reckon the barrels, and examine them well, one of them must be wanting. The chamberlain, who had ranged them himself, having found them all well shut up, returned and assured him they were all safe and sound.

Ah! see where the mischief lies, said then the Cardinal. My poor Gusman! I have discovered your artifice: You have been at the same merchant's to purchase this fruit, and now endeavour to make me believe you have stolen them. Oh! not at all, if you please, Mr. Gusman, you were to have had the address to open and pilfer one of my barrels, and take out some of the fruit; that was our wager, if you remember; you shall not escape the pu-

nishment. Come, Mr. Nicholas, pursued he, seize that rash fool, and punish him as you shall think proper. Softly, my lord, replied I, at these last words, I agree that I am worthy of punishment, if the comfits, which I have now laid on your table, are not some of those which your Eminence bought yesterday; but agree also that I have won, if I prove the contrary, in making you see that I have actually in my chamber one of the twelve barrels which have been brought into his palace. Take care what you advance, page, interrupted the chamberlain, there are twelve barrels in my lord's cabinet, I have reckoned them over and over again. That may be, said I to the chamberlain, but you know the * *wolf often eats the counted sheep.* The

* The shepherd gives a false return to avoid blame, the general to secure gain, the inferior clergy to shun censure, and the disposer of the public money to procrastinate investigation.

prelate, impatient to learn the truth of the matter, finished quickly his dinner, in order to go to the cabinet, where he betook himself with all the guests of the day, who, by my brazen look, judged the affair would not ultimately tend to my confusion. His Eminence himself reckoned the barrels, and finding there were twelve of them in it, Gusman, said he, you see not one is wanting, that they are all such as I have caused them to be bought. My lord, answered I, there are twelve there I confess, but they are not all full of comfits. The Cardinal, losing patience, wished to have them all opened. No, no, cried I, I will spare you that trouble. In saying these words, I shewed the barrel I had filled with earth and straw, and, whilst they were unhooping and getting out the head, I ran to my chamber, from whence I returned with the other, which was half

full, and related in what manner I had stolen it.

All who were present applauded my subtility, and laughed abundantly at the adventure. My lord, as his word obliged him, made a second barrel be given me, which I abandoned to my comrades, to testify that what I did was but to divert my master. At the bottom, his Eminence, very little pleased with my sleight of hand, and the bad example I was giving his family, would have indubitably discharged me, if he had not considered that it was to expose me to commit some hardy act, that would destroy me entirely. Thus this charitable prelate, having pity on my youth, kept me in his house in spite of my faults, to deprive me of the opportunities of perpetrating more criminal transgressions.

CHAP. IV.

Gusman continues his unlucky Tricks at the Cardinal's, who at length gives him his Discharge. —He enters into the Service of the Spanish Ambassador.—The Trick which Gusman played on a Captain and Lawyer, who came uninvited to dine at the Ambassador's.

One may safely say the Cardinal was the best of all masters past, present, and to come. What did he not do to render me an honest man. As menaces and chastisements might dishearten and oblige me to run away, he would not put them in practice for my amendment; besides that, his amiable mildness did not permit him to employ those alternatives. It was by remonstrances, independent of rigour, and even by gifts he endeavoured to inspire in me ever so little taste for virtue. If I did a praise-worthy action, which very seldom happened, he did not fail

to recompense me well. When he was at table, and that he imagined I longed for any dainty morsel, he was generously condescending to give me a part; but he accompanied usually with some little piece of raillery this mark of his bounty. One day, among others, in giving me a bit of turtle, Gusman, said he, receive this from my hand, as a tribute which I pay thee to maintain the peace between us. The example of Mr. Nicholas makes me tremble for my comfits.

It is after this manner he familiarised himself with his servants, who, charmed to have such a nobleman to serve, would willingly have sacrificed their lives for him. A little time after the adventure of the rundlets, a large chest of preserved fruits was sent to his Eminence from Genoa, elegantly gilded and artificially arranged in their respective drawers. My lord took exceeding great pleasure in seeing those, because

they came from a relative who was very dear to him, and who was accustomed every year to make him the like present. The fruit was extremely beautiful; but having been put into boxes not sufficiently dry, they had taken on the road a little moisture; so that there was a necessity of drying them in the sun again.

The Cardinal appeared perplexed, not knowing what place to put them, where they might be out of my reach. Every servant spoke his thought thereupon, and there was no one hardy enough to take the task on himself, and be responsible for the event. Very well, said his Eminence, seeing me arrive, for I was out of the palace during this consultation; here comes Gusman, who will draw us out of our present embarrassment: My friend, continued he, we know not where to put those comfits to dry, I am so terribly in dread of the rats.

My lord, said I, it is easy to hinder the rats from touching them; you have but to give them to my comrades and me to free you from every apprehension of that nature. It is true, replied the prelate smiling, that is a sure way to preserve them from rats; but I wish to find out another, and I have a mind to give them in charge to yourself. I therefore charge you with the care of exposing them to the sun every day, and you shall render me an account of them. You see what condition they are in. You must therefore incessantly watch for their preservation, and return them as I confide them to you, under pain of forfeiting my friendship.

Ah! my lord, cried I, at these words, you little think what a trial you are going to reduce the frail Gusman to; I will be responsible for the rats, and the most crafty of my comrades, but I cannot in conscience answer for myself.

Alas ! I am an unlucky son of Eve, and if I see myself in a Paradise of Comfits, some cursed serpent of a conserve of Genoa will eventually tempt me. Still suppose, if your Eminence said, Gusman, you may eat my comfits, provided it appears no one has touched them. On this condition I would take them under my care, and both of us would be satisfied individually. I consent to it, answered the Cardinal; if you are expert enough for that, I pardon you the trespass; but I assure you your punishment shall be severely exemplary, if the smallest appearance of theft is manifest.

I accepted then the commission on those conditions. I opened and spread out the boxes one after another in the gallery, which was exposed to the sun, and the beauty of those enticing fruits made all the impression which they ought to make on a dainty-mouthed

rogue like me. Whatever desire I had to taste them, I waited, however, until they should be a little dried; which happening some days after, I thought no more but of the means of being able to pilfer with impunity a part of those beautiful fruits; and behold how Mr. the Undertaker, accomplished it:—I covered first the boxes, which I gently turned upside down; then, having drawn with the point of a knife the little nails which fastened on the bottoms, I took out some of the comfits from four boxes only: I afterwards filled with paper, very ingeniously, the hollows I had made, and settled the boxes as they were before. One day, whilst the prelate was at breakfast, for it was a fast day, I told him the comfits, I believed, were dry enough to be locked up. I need not ask you, replied he, smiling, if you have eaten a good part of them. Ap-

pearances at least, my lord, are not against me.—That we will soon know, said he. Let some of the boxes be immediately brought me. I instantly brought three of my comrades to my chamber where they were, gave each of them one to carry, and took up the fourth myself. Those four boxes were exactly in appearance as I got them, though they had the honour of receiving a blessing from my hands.

I presented them to his Eminence, asking him if he did not think them well preserved by me. He examined them very attentively, and remarking nothing that could betray me, I will be satisfied with your care and vigilance, said he, if all the other boxes have been respected like these; I am curious to know that. We satisfied his curiosity. He considered the boxes, which I had not touched at all, and after a long examination avowed, that

if I had stolen any of the comfits, I was exculpated, from no vestiges of thievery appearing against me. Upon this, I ran to my chamber, put on a dish the comfitted fruits I had stolen, and returned to shew them to the prelate, assuring him I had not tasted one of them, how great soever my desire was to eat them, which could be easily verified. New surprise appeared on the part of the Cardinal, and of all his household, who now looking on me as a first-rate juggler, were more than ever on their guard against me.

I passed thus my youth in the Cardinal's palace, where one may safely say I enjoyed a very agreeable situation. However I was far from being satisfied with it; the beard was growing very fast on my chin, and I was dying with longing to wear a sword. I attached myself to gaming, and not finding at home players depraved enough for my

taste, I went to seek them in the city, and whole days returned not home at all. In a word, I pushed the fury of play so far, that, my lord, seldom or never seeing me, wished absolutely to know, why I was always out, and of course learned the cause. He was extremely displeased. He spared nothing to reclaim me from so pernicious a habit; remonstrances, promises, and even entreaties he put in practice for that effect: but all was to no purpose; all his cares were useless.

One day as he was speaking of me, before his principal officers, he told them: Since all the means I have made use of to make Gusman enter into himself and return to his duty, have failed, I will try a new method, which at length occurs to me. The first fault therefore he shall commit, let him be turned out of my doors, to see if he will be more sensible to this chas-

tisement than to all the advices I have given him. I do not intend by that, continued he, to abandon him to misery. He shall get every day his usual fare, and you shall take care to tell him that I shall be always ready to take him back into my service, when he will change his mode of living.

I did not wait long to furnish his Eminence with an opporunity of putting the new method in practice, which he had thought of for my correction. Two or three days after, I persevered so courageously at play, that I lost the residue of my clothes even to my livery-cloak, so that I had no more on my carcass than my page-breeches and a waistcoat, for which they absolutely refused to play with me. I returned to the palace in this condition, and locked myself up in my room. My lord seeing a conduct so irregular and depraved, executed his resolution. He

ordered the steward to get a new coat made for me, and afterwards give me the outside. The steward obeyed him, and in giving me my discharge, told me, that his Eminence loved me in spite of my faults; that he had given orders for me to be dieted at the palace as usual, and that he would finally receive me among his domestics, when he should be persuaded I repented truly of my past life. Instead of applauding the bounty of this venerable Cardinal, I was base enough, or more properly speaking, fool to despise it, and left his house grumbling, as if I had the greatest cause in the world of complaint, and declared I would never set foot in it again. I thought, indeed, he was wrong to use me thus, and believed myself sufficiently revenged on him for his losing me.

My impertinent pride hindered me a long time from being sensible of the

folly I had committed. I took pleasure at first in walking the flags of Rome, and eating in the houses of my acquaintances: but they soon gave me to understand my company was an intrusion they could very well dispense with, as they gave me some very sorry fare, and at length such cold looks, that I dared no longer to go dine at any of their houses; which words justifies the Spanish proverb: "Stay at the farthest but a week at your uncle's or cousin's, a month at your brother's, a year at your friend's, but all your life in the house of your father."

Although I perceived it was a villainous employment to go spunge at any one's table, I began to repent of being interdicted that of the Cardinal's pages; but the fault was then irreparable, as his Eminence about that time fell sick and died. He left, by a good will, to all his servants, wherewith to live in-

dependently the rest of their lives. This drew me into despair, I saw but one resource, which was to offer my services to the Ambassador of Spain. This nobleman had been my deceased master's best friend, and knew me very well. He had even testified friendship more than once, so well, that I had no sooner told him I wished to attach myself to his service, than he received me most willingly into his house. He had often taken pleasure in my repartees, and in the anecdotes he heard me relate before the Cardinal. He looked on me as a good two-handed lad, I mean as a person duly qualified to become his buffoon and pimp. In his soul he destined me to this latter employment, as you shall see in the end. It is necessary I should delineate the character of this minister.

He had been chosen for the embassy of Rome in a delicate conjuncture,

wherein there was need of a genius at once enterprising and full of address. Thus far he answered the confidence, which the king his master had in him. But he had a foible usual enough with great men, he loved a little too much the women; but for that he would have been more esteemed at Rome, than any other Ambassador there. Having then judged me worthy to conduct his amorous intrigues, he began with declaring to me his honest intentions that way. Afterwards, in order to see how I would acquit myself, he made me carry some intriguing messages, which I had the good luck to discharge in such a manner as to please him exceedingly. This essay was followed by two or three negociations of the same nature, but more difficult, and the success was not less fortunate. There was no more wanting to gain his favour. He conceived for me so much friend-

ship, that I became his favourite page. From that moment, they swore no longer in the hotel of his Excellency, but by the *Lord Gusman.* My rising favour failed not to excite the jealousy of the other servants, and principally of the old ones, some of whom called me the master's buffoon, and others the pander of his lust; nevertheless, as the good graces of the Ambassador rendered me not more insolent, and that far from injuring them with his Excellency, I sought but to oblige them, they gave no longer any mark of their enmity.

I did not bely in the hotel of the Ambassador, the reputation I had acquired by my pranks in the Cardinal's palace; not being able to be in a place, where more opportunities presented themselves than in the house of my new master, of exercising my talents, I did not let slip a single one. Para-

sites in abundance came there at the hour of dinner every day. We knew very well, my comrades and I, to distinguish them from the honourable personages whom my master was rejoiced to see at his table. We were very attentive to serve the latter; but as for the trencher-friends, the most of whom were adventurers, God knows how we attended them, and that infinitely diverted the Ambassador. We let one during the whole of dinner ask in vain for drink. All his nods and signs were useless, we feigned not to understand him. For another we filled small glasses, or into those glasses which were purposely made to retain half the liquor; this only served to irritate their thirst. We gave hot water to another to drink, or water that was coloured red. If it happened that one of those gentlemen were helped to any thing nice, we changed his plate so

suddenly, the second or third bit was the most he could eat. In a word, we endeavoured to chase them from the table of his Excellency, and we were sometimes happy enough to bring it about.

Among those adventurers, whom the smoke of our kitchen drew to our house, there came one, whom the banks of the Thames had given birth , and who surpassed all the others in effrontery. He called himself the Ambassador's relation, though he had not one single principle of a man of quality. He introduced himself by the real dint of impudence, and in spite of the icy reception his Excellency gave him, came every day regularly to eat at his table. The fatiguing mortal! There was but to speak to him, and every day rang with the praises of his nation; one time he applauded the

politeness of the English, their integrity in commerce, their disinterestedness in the services they rendered to strangers; he exhausted himself on their sobriety and their delicacy in point of religion; another time he called them the first people on the globe for their constancy and fidelity, particularly to their kings. The English ladies were not forgotten in his eulogies. He said that all the women might pass for so many Lucretians, and all the young misses for Vestals. I would never finish, if I was to repeat half the encomiums he lavished on the people of his country. In fact, he tired all the company with his nonsensical conversation, and principally my master, who not being able to hold any longer, said to me one night in the Castilian tongue, which the Englishman did not understand; Ah! how this fool fatigues me!

These words of the Ambassador did not strike in vain the ears of a page, who was neither foolish nor deaf. I took it as granted, that we were absolutely to get rid of this bombastic personage. For this purpose, I attached myself to his service at table. When he asked for drink, and that was every minute, I filled for him a large glass up to the very brim with strong wine, which did not fail to soon stun him. As soon as I perceived that by his discourse, I tied with a silk string one of his legs to the chair, on which he was sitting, without any one of the guests perceiving it. When supper was ended, the Ambassador stood up, and all the company followed his example; but when my Englishman wished to do the like, he tumbled so rudely with his chair, that he broke his nose and jaws against the floor. I imperceptibly untied the string, whilst pretending to help

him to get up: nevertheless, in spite of all the wine he had drank, he perceived all the company was laughing at his expence, and guessing very well the cause of his fall, he left the house in a rage, and returned no more. This gave extreme pleasure to his Excellency.

We having thus got rid of this trencher-fly, we undertook, my comrades and I, to chase away also all the others, but we found some of them who gave us enough to do. Among others a Spanish Bravo, who called himself a gentleman of Cordova. He happened one day to accost his Excellency, at the time he was going to sit down to dinner, telling him he was in distress, and that necessity obliged him to discover his situation. My master, comprehending very well what that signified, drew from his pocket a purse, wherein were some pistoles, and gave it to him with-

out opening it. After which he bowed to him and turned his back; but the Cordovan, very far from retiring, followed him step by step, still speaking to him of the perilous rencounters he had met with, and was impudent enough to sit down at table the very next to him. Do not be offended, said he to his Excellency, with the liberty I take: If I were not a gentleman of the first rank itself, it is sufficient to be a soldier to merit the honor of eating with princes. Besides, added he, the table of a nobleman of your character ought to be free to officers, whose services have not been as yet recompensed.

In finishing these words, he *pounced* on a dish which was near him with savage avidity: he eat like a starved hound as he was. Afterwards looking at me, for it was I who was to attend him, he made signs five or six times to

give him some drink. Unluckily for my gentleman, instead of obeying his signs, I feigned not to perceive them at all. During all this time he got nothing to drink. He believed at first I did this through negligence or stupidity. He was not long in this mistake, and, seeing there was more mischief than stupidity in my looks, shouled out at last, Page, said he, have you got orders to let me die with thirst? Upon this my master, who had no small inclination to laugh at the scene I was exhibiting, nodded to me to help this adventurer; which I did, God knows how: I gave him one of the smallest glasses, and was malicious enough not to fill it for him. He then left the hotel.

After dinner every one took his leave and retired, whilst his Excellency withdrew to his cabinet, to take there his sieste.

Nothing gave my master more plea-

sure than to see genteel company at his table. He willingly suffered parasites there, provided they paid their scot by some waggery or witticism, but he did not wish them to approach his table when he regaled persons of rank and consideration. One day, when he invited the Ambassador of France with several other noblemen to an entertainment, he did not see without pain two of his old spungers arrive, a captain and lawyer, who did not want merit each in his profession.

Our Ambassador was not capable of giving them an ungracious reception. He only assumed a mortified look; which gave me to understand, he did not see those personages but with regret. If they perceived the bad humour of his Excellency, they at least took no notice of it. It is true, they had too good an opinion of themselves to think they were the cause. Very far also

from going away after having saluted the Ambassador, they staid and mixed with the rest. My master, whose very soul I read, looked at me; I had no need of a second glance to divine his thoughts: I understood he required of me to divert the company at the expence of the captain and lawyer. I formed in a moment that resolution, and the means were soon imagined.

It is necessary to observe that the lawyer, a grave and phlegmatic man, had a pair of mustachios which he appeared to idolize. He dared not laugh, lest they should lose their equilibrium, and looked at them often in a little mirror, which he drew from his pocket with his handkerchief, pretending to use it for the purpose of blowing his nose. When all the company began to act their respective parts, and the conversation became so jovial, that I could not have a more favourable op-

portunity for executing what I had projec-ed, I approached the captain, and said something in his ear which caused him to laugh. He believed he ought to answer me in the same strain, and obliged me to stoop my head to hear him. We spoke for some time responsively, and always quite low. When I judged it fit for my purpose, I stood up straight, and raised my voice, saying with a serious air, and as if it had been the continuance of our discourse, Captain, I am your obedient humble servant—I swear I will do no such thing. The respect I have for Mr. the Lawyer would not permit me to take such liberties.

What ails you, Gusman, cried my master. Faith, my lord, answered I, that is the captain's province to tell you. He has a mind to be witty on Mr. the Advocate's beard, and is pressing me to divert the company in adopt-

ing the funny traits which have escaped him. But still, said the French Ambassador, tell us what are those pleasantries. Since ye command me, my master and you, replied I, I must obey your excellencies: The captain wishes to be merry with the mustachios of that gentleman, (pointing at the lawyer) who, he says, takes great care every morning to dye them that no one should perceive that they are beginning to grow grey, and sleeps always on his back for fear of giving them a bad sit. This quarter of an hour back he is going on with the most satyrical raillery on the doctor of law there, and presses me to divert you with them as if the satire originated with myself: But it does not belong to a boy of my condition to sport with the feelings of so respectable a personage as Mr. the Lawyer.

The captain began to laugh, hearing

me speak in those terms instead of contradicting me in his own justification, and all the company followed his example, without knowing whether I told the truth or not. The doctor of laws remained some moments uncertain in what manner he ought to take the matter: but he could hold out no longer against the immoderate laughter of the captain, and, addressing him with a tone of voice that marked his rage—Swaggerer, said he, it well becomes you to mock my age, you who boast of having been with Charles the fifth at the siege of Tunis. Know, Mr. Buffoon, that I am far from comparing myself with a man of your stamp. Softly, Mr. Lawyer, interrupted the captain, looking serious, you forget before what noblemen we are here. If I were not more reasonable than you ———. How more reasonable, interrupted the doctor in his turn, getting

up from table with a furious air! 'Tis you that are the greatest fool in the kingdom. The captain, who was beginning to lose all patience, would not have failed to reply to the lawyer, in perhaps throwing a plate in his face, if their excellencies had not interfered and prevented them from coming to blows. They appeased those two enemies by degrees, and from that time they returned no more. It is by that plan I drove from our hotel those two parasites, which was very agreeable to my master.

CHAP. V.

The Ambassador falls in Love with a Roman Lady.—Gusman undertakes the honourable Employment of Pimp.—Success of this gallant Enterprise.—The Adventure of the Pig—and what was the Consequence.

I HAVE already said that the only fault of the Ambassador was to have a

heart a little too tender, or, more properly speaking, too libertine. He saw, I know not by what opportunity, the wife of a Roman knight, and was become passionately in love with her. He had already set at her heels a first-rate old woman for the seduction of young ladies; but this agent, knowing as she was, had as yet made but fruitless advances. He was in despair. He opened his heart to me one day, and told me he was astonished at the resistance of Fabia, the more so as this lady, in the flower of her age, was married to an ugly and infirm old man.

The object of this confidence was to engage me to have a hand in the intrigue, which was no hard task to bring about. I charged myself, then, with the honourable employment with which my master invested me, and made him conceive the most flattering hopes, when I told him I was pulling a cord

myself with the lady's own maid. He embraced me with joy when I had told him this circumstance, and remained persuaded that, having in his interest the soubrette and me, he would obtain, sooner or later, through our assistance, the accomplishment of his desires.

The first conversation I had with Nicoletta, (that was the name of the lady's maid) I disposed her to render service to my patron. In fact, she spared no pains to gain him a favourable reception in the breast of her mistress, seizing every opportunity of praising him, and speaking disadvantageously of her husband. Nevertheless, after having lost several days in tempting the virtue of Fabia by discourses the most capable of shaking it, she began to despair of overcoming her, when one morning this lady, assuming all at once a smiling countenance, said to her, My dear Nicoletta, I must discover to you

the bottom of my soul, it is too bad to dissemble with a girl as devoted as you are to my sentiments: Know that the Ambassador of Spain appears to me the only man in the world most worthy to be loved by a woman of quality. I can no longer use him ill. But you know me. You are apprised how tenaciously I am the slave of my reputation. Seek some means of reconciling with my delicacy the inclination I have for him. I give you leave to conceal nothing from Gusman, and even to bring him here, if possible, to-night. You shall introduce him privately, that I may be able to converse with him independent of scandal.

Nicoletta, transported with joy to see her mistress so *honorably* disposed, embraced her knees, kissed her hands, danced about the room, and committed before her a thousand extravagant acts, which testified her rapture Afterwards,

in order to confirm her better in her resolution, she began to boast to her the good qualities of the Ambassador, and ended in assuring her that we would conduct so prudently this intrigue, that no one in Rome would have the slightest suspicion of it. Upon this assurance, Fabia told her attendant, that she abandoned herself entirely to her zeal and address.

Nicoletta thereupon ran to find me, and as a girl whom the excess of her joy rendered nearly foolish, threw her arms round my neck, crying, My friend, my dear friend, pay me for the agreeable news I have to announce to you; my mistress resists no longer. I was so charmed to hear those words, which I by no means expected, that lost in an extravagance of joy myself, I took Nicoletta by the hand, and led her, as if in triumph after a victory to the cabinet of my master, where we three

began to joyously celebrate the metamorphosis of Fabia. His Excellency drew from his pocket a little purse full of Spanish pistoles, and made a present of it to the *virtuous Soubrette*, who received it with a good heart, after standing on some little ceremonies usually practised on such an occasion.

This officious agent having at length retired, not without giving me beforehand proper instructions of the place where I should betake myself that night, and of the hour I ought to be there, in order to be able to get into Fabia's house, left me alone with the Ambassador. We passed the whole of the afternoon together, he in relating to me where he had seen this lady, and I in felicitating him for having made so virtuous an acquaintance. When night was come, I ran to the place of rendezvous, and waited the appointed hour: but that Abigail appeared only to

tell me that her mistress could not speak to me that night; and it was the same story for the three or four following nights. We did not draw, my master or I, a very good omen from that. Nevertheless we did not lose all hopes, and one night at last, it happened, that this confidante told me, through a small ground-floor window, she would in a few moments introduce me into the house.

It is necessary to observe, that I was in a street filled with mud and dirt, and where I would in vain have sought for shelter from the heavy rain, which was falling, and which soon penetrated my clothes to the skin. I bore it during two hours with a patience, which I would not have supported, had it been on my own account: but I had for my master a zeal capable of every proof. I was then as wet as a drake, when I heard myself called by Nico-

letta. I came to her immediately, and she let me in through a little door, which was shut as softly as it had been opened. Gusman, said she to me, I am going to inform Fabia of your arrival, who will come down herself to speak to you. The voice of my well-beloved was as good as a faggot to dry me. I felt nothing but the pleasure of touching at the happy instant of seeing the lady, by whom my master was captivated, and tasted in advance the joy I would have in relating to that nobleman, what would pass between her and me. Fabia came in fact a little while after with her Abigail, to whom she said, Nicoletta, whilst I shall talk here with Mr. Gusman, do you go up stairs to my husband's chamber; watch him well; and if by chance he happens to call me, run to me with the news.

will not say whether I found Fabia

handsome or ugly, for she had thought proper to receive me without light, so that we were in an obscurity, which did not permit us even to discern each other. This lady lowering her voice, began by informing herself of the state of my health, as if she had taken a very great interest in it. On my side I did the same thing; but I added to that a good ceremonious compliment on the part of my master, whom I depicted burning with the love of her. However, though my discourse was very pathetic, she seemingly paid very little attention to it, and interrupted me in a place most proper to mollify her: Mr. Gusman, said she, pardon me, I beseech you, if I do not listen to you in the manner you could wish; but I tremble, and in the fear, which troubles my spirits, I imagine my husband has spies here, who may hear us. Walk on quite straight before you,

pursued she, speaking very low, you will enter into a room, where I beseech you to wait for me. I will take a turn through the house to try if the coast is clear, and will return quickly back; don't make any noise.

I added faith to those words of Fabia. I groped my way as in blind-man's buff; but, instead of finding a room, I perceived I was crossing a court-yard, the pavement of which was dirty and slippery, that after having gone some few steps I fell into a heap of mud, from which wishing to extricate myself, I knocked my head so plumply against a wall which was just before me, that I continued nearly a quarter of an hour quite stunned with the blow. Nevertheless I recovered a little this terrible shock, I sought along the wall for this pretended room, to which I was directed, and thought at length I was entering it through a little open

door, I found under my hand. Another cursed mistake; behold me now, if you please, in a back-yard, very narrow, and no more than two fathoms long. To crown my misery, the rain continued with unabated force, and falling through two gutters into the yard, inundated it in such a manner, that I felt myself standing up to my garters in water. I sought immediately by regaining the door to draw myself from this chamber-pot of the devil; but it was no longer open, whether the wind had shut it, or that some one who followed me close, which is the more likely, had pushed it to, in order to lock me in this infernal mire. I was then obliged to resolve on passing the night in the back-yard, where when I wished to remove from one gutter, which incommoded me, I found myself under the other. In avoiding Charybdis, I did but fall into Scylla. O

night, as cruel for me as those of the bathing-tub and tossing in the blanket!

Quite disagreeable as it was for me to see myself up to my knees in water, and to feel my head battering under the tremendous shower, without being able to defend myself from it, the reflections I made on the sad consequences this adventure would perhaps have, afflicted me not less than my present situation. Wretched Gusman, said I, do you see yourself then taken in a trap-cage? The husband of Fabia will not fail to ask you in the morning, what did you come to do in his house. What have you to answer to that? If for the first time in your life you tell the truth, you will render your master and yourself the common town-talk of all Rome. What reply will you make then? You must say it is Nicoletta introduced you here, and that you have promised to marry her. If they

compel you to keep your word, it is there you will leap the devil's ditch in the devil's name. Still it is better for you this misfortune itself to happen you, than to have every bone in your skin dislocated to-morrow on the rack to make you confess. But who knows if they will be satisfied with putting me to the torture; perhaps they will not make a second job of it, but bury me here in this villainous grave-yard. I ought to fear every thing from an Italian husband. I was tormented with those frightful imaginations until day-break.

I then thought I heard somebody open the door of the back yard quite softly, and felt some emotion of joy at first, thinking it was the Abigail or her mistress, who were coming through compassion to deliver me from my prison; but that was the least of their thoughts. 'Tis true the door was no

longer shut, and whatever side I directed my looks to, I saw no person approaching. I got again into the little court-yard, which I had crossed in the night, and having opened a little door, which was only closed to, I saw myself in the street, or rather in the very street where Nicoletta had given me the rendezvous. I recollected also the window through which she had spoken to me, and representing to myself the whole of the trick that was played on me, I thanked Heaven for not having been worse treated. I returned quickly to our hotel; I gained my apartment, where having stripped myself as naked as my hand, I covered myself warm in order to recal the heat, which the wetness of my clothes had banished.

I was in too great an agitation to take any repose; and not being able to sleep, I began to ponder on my late adventure. I looked on it as a trait of

Fabia's vengeance. I judged by this she was a woman of virtue, and that in order to make the Ambassador understand it, she had thought proper to receive his envoy thus: but what mortified me more than all the rest, was to see in the event that I afforded every one an occasion of laughter at my expence. I was also very much in pain what construction I would put on the affair to my master, when obliged to relate it to him; for I did not doubt but sooner or later he would come to the knowledge of it. When I was a little warmed in my blankets, I put on another dress as suitable as that which had been so well adjusted by the rain, and dressed myself in a situation to appear before the Ambassador, as if nothing had happened. I waited until he put the question to me himself, which he did not fail to do as soon as dinner was over. He made me go in with him

to his cabinet, where he said to me :—Why then, Gusman, have I not seen you this morning? I thought you would come and give me an account of what you did last night at Fabia's; you consequently have bad news to tell me. My lord, it is true I have not very good to announce to you. I know not what to think of Fabia. I have passed the night without having heard from the lady or her confidant. Would to Heaven you had never conceived the design you have formed.—Whence comes this ejaculation, replied he, you are very easily discouraged. Perhaps some unexpected accident will not permit Fabia to do what she has resolved upon, or her maid from informing you of it. Be it as it will, don't be disheartened; return this night to the place you have in vain waited for Nicoletta.

I promised my master to be punctual, and was no sooner gone from his

cabinet, than one of our stable-boys came to me and gave me a note from, said he, a lady, who had besought him to give it into my own hand. It was from my chaste Soubrette. In it she sent me word, that she was very much surprised I had neglected in the morning to inform her of what had passed the night before between her mistress and me; that in order to repair any fault, I had but to meet her about nightfall, in the street behind Fabia's house, and that through the low window which I knew, we would have a little chat together. This billet revived my courage. I betook myself about six o'clock in the evening to this street, which, as I have already said, was very narrow, and where there was a foot-deep of puddle in every part of it.

The honest Abigail was waiting for me, and at first loaded me with bitter reproaches, which were changed after-

wards into compliments of condolence, when I gave her a faithful recital of what had happened me. She appeared to me extremely surprised at the trick her mistress had played on me; and although I was on my guard against her smooth-tongued discourse, she did not fail to persuade me that she had no hand in it.

It is necessary to observe, that during our conversation, in order to keep up a more gallant appearance, I had my neck lengthened, my legs extended, and that was, as you shall hear, but to afford me a new misfortune, which my evil destiny was preparing for me. There was at one end of the street a stable, out of which an uncommon sized hog suddenly darted, being banged out of it by some lusty blows of a cudgel. This animal as irritated as a bull, for whom the barrier is opened, scampered away at my side of the

street, and passing between my legs whipped me off the ground, and grunting in a frightful manner, carried me off in full gallop on his back. I grasped the neck of my charger, and holding by the bristles as well as I was able, for fear of breaking a leg or an arm against the wall, or of being tumbled into some sink, I hoped to get fortunately out of the scrape; but my courser deceived my hopes. Feeling himself grasped by the neck, he shook so rudely his head, in order to deliver himself from his annoying burden, that he dismounted me on the broad of my back in the dirtiest part of the whole street. It was at the entrance of one side of Navonne-Square. There is always there a great crowd, and particularly then more than ever.

What a spectacle, especially for the mob, to see me come out of the street, covered with dirt from head to foot.

Very soon nothing was heard but shouts and hootings, and in a moment I was surrounded by an infinity of all kinds of people, who began to insult me by a thousand jeering witticisms, which I devoured, so overwhelmed was I with shame and confusion. I only thought of finding some house, where I might hide myself; and having remarked one, which appeared to offer me the asylum I sought for, I hastened to reach it. I got in and abrubtly clapped the door in the faces of the scoundrels, who were following me. Those immediately began to bawl to the people of the house to turn me out; and one would have said, seeing them so zealous in persecuting me, I had committed some crime worthy of an exemplary chastisement.

To crown my misfortune, the master of the house where I had taken shelter, was no way disposed to take

my part against an insolent populace. As he was a jealous old snarler, who took umbrage at every thing, he imagined the frightful pickle I was in, might be some stratagem I made use of to introduce myself into his house with impunity, and carry some amorous message into it. This ridiculous vision made him bear down on me with all his servants, who soon gave me the outside, together with some very well directed thumps on the skull, and several lusty kicks on the breech. Behold me a second time given up to those merciless jeerers, who, running after me according as I withdrew from them, renewed their railleries and abuse. I knew not what saint to make vows to, when Heaven, for my consolation, threw a young Spaniard in my way, who offered me his services, and those of three or four Italians who accompanied him. With this succour,

of which I had the greatest need, I got away from my persecutors, whilst with the flats of their swords the Spaniard and his companions dispersed the mob. I advanced with all speed towards our hotel, despising the snapping and bites I received in the streets from all the little dogs, which were equal to a pack of hounds at my heels.

I arrived at home at last safe and sound with the exception of some bites and bruises. I had the good luck to reach my chamber-door without any one seeing me; but I searched my pockets in vain, I could find no key. I supposed in drawing out my handkerchief in order to wipe my face, I had let it drop in the cursed house, wherein I had so unseasonably taken refuge.

After having a long time thought of what I ought to do, I determined on imploring the assistance of one of my

comrades, whose chamber was contiguous to mine, and who, if he was not one of my friends, seemed at least to be so. I went to rap at his door; he opened it, and seeing me so well adjusted, he, without being able to prevent it, burst into some loud fits of laughter, which I was obliged to endure patiently. My friend, when you are tired diverting yourself at my cost, I beseech you to go bring me a lock-smith to open my chamber-door. I will run there, answered he; but satisfy before-hand my curiosity; tell me what accident has happened you; I promise you to keep the secret. To get rid of so curious an impertinent, I gave him a detail, wherein there was not a single word of truth. After that I pressed him to render me the service I expected from him. It was not without repugnance he left me in his room, so much in dread was he, I would soil his furniture. He obliged me even to

swear, quite fatigued as I was, that I would not go near it, and that I would continue standing until his return. By good luck for me, he returned very soon with a lock-smith, who opened the door of my chamber, where without losing time, I changed my clothes and linen, after having well washed my hands and face.

Scarcely had I changed my dress, when one came to inform me that the Ambassador wished to speak to me. He knew already the story of the pig. There are always in the houses of the great some servants, who in order to make their court to their masters, are ready to tell them all that the others do. But he had heard my adventure very imperfectly. So he asked me at first how the circumstance happened, and if it was not an insult, which the husband of Fabia offered me. I was rejoiced he gave me so fine an opportu-

nity of composing a fable. I told him that two strong lackeys having seen me talk to Nicoletta in the street, took it into their heads to banter me thereupon; that I had sturdily answered them, and insensibly from words we came to blows; that according to all appearances I should have killed one of them, if, happily for him, a pig running furiously out of the street, had not passed between us and thrown me down, and that finally having bounced up immediately to renew the fight, I had seen my enemies cowardly take to their heels.

My lord was the dupe of my bombastic recital, but if I deceived him that night, in recompence early the next morning he learned the truth. I well perceived it at dinner. He let fly some cutting gibes on my combat with the two strong lackeys, and called me the knight-errant on pig-back. I would

be the first to laugh at his pleasantries, if he had addressed them to me in particular, but it was in presence of the other servants, who were all charmed to hear me thus bantered by my master, and who judged very well by that I would not be his favourite long.

A circumstance still more melancholy for me was, that one of the Ambassador's friends, and of course one of my enemies, came to visit him a few days after, and told his Excellency he had something very important to communicate to him. My master asked what he had to say, and his friend spoke to him these terms, or in others nearly equivalent.—" The interest I take in every thing which concerns you, does not permit me to let you be ignorant of a report which is spreading in Rome, and which wounds your reputation. Gusman, whose conduct is really bad, passes for the minister of your amours;

the adventure of the pig is the common topic every where, and if one will believe the general obloquy, it was in procuring for you the good graces of a lady that the officious Gusman has served as sport to the populace."

These words made all the impression they could make on the mind of a man such as my master, who knew very well all the measures a person of his character had to keep, as well for his own honour as that of the prince his master. From that moment he resolved to get rid of me. He testified nothing of it; although he affected to live with me as usual, I knew him too well not to perceive his dissimulation, and the new face my affairs were taking with him.

The Lent, which arrived at that time, furnished him with a fine pretext to begin to execute the design he had of giving me honourably my discharge.

He told me he had a mind to withdraw from the commerce of women, and lead a more regular life. I will to you even avow, added he, that I am no longer foolishly in love with Fabia. Reason has re-assumed her throne. I acknowledge I was guilty of the greatest wrong in the world to have cast my eyes on that lady. Her husband is one of the first gentlemen in Rome, and I will reproach myself as long as I live to have wished to dishonour his house.

He held forth such like discourse, which I feigned piously to believe. I did more, I applauded his resolution; and counterfeiting, in my turn, the penitent sinner, who was entering into himself, I told him I would follow his example. I changed, in fact, my conduct; I made all the hypocritical grimaces I could invent, in order to persuade our domestics, and particularly my master, that I had renounced for ever all my amorous intrigues.

CHAP. VI.

Gusman resolves on leaving Rome, and making the Tour of Italy, to see the Curiosities of that Kingdom.

I PASSED almost whole days in my chamber, where I employed myself in reading good books which were lent me, and receiving some friends who came to visit me. One day, the young Spaniard, who had so generously espoused my cause in the adventure of the pig, came to see me, in order to inform himself, he said, of the state of my health. You may well suppose, my dear reader, I failed not to give a gracious reception to a man, to whom I was under so many obligations. I made him a thousand compliments for the service he had rendered me, and assured him I was very much mortified not to have been able to go to his house to thank him personally for it, being igno-

rant of his name and abode. He answered me modestly, that he had done nothing to merit so much acknowledgment, and that, being a Spaniard and a gentleman, he considered it his duty to run to the assistance of any genteel personage insulted by the mob.

I had no sooner heard he was a countryman of mine, than I asked him in what part of Spain he had been born. I am, said he, from Andalusia, a native of Seville, and Sayavedra is my name. I redoubled my civilities when I learned he was of one of the most illustrious and ancient families of our city. He had, in fact, the Andalusian accent, and knew Seville as well as I. He however was a native of Valencia; but he had his reasons for not telling me so then. I offered him my services, and the credit of my master, if he stood in need of them. He thanked me for my good will; told me he had truly an af-

fair in the Apostolic Chamber, and that he hoped for a prosperous issue: but if the persons who interested themselves for him, did not efficaciously transact it, he would have recourse to me.

As in the course of conversation I happened to say he would find me always at home, and that I walked out but seldom, he wished to know the cause. I avowed to him with good faith, that I dared not shew myself in the streets since the adventure of the pig, and was very glad to give sufficient time for it to be forgotten, before I would appear again in common, which appeared to him the determination of a prudent and experienced man. He did not forget to offer to accompany me with his friends, if any indispensible business obliged me to go out. Penetrated with those obliging offers, I threw my arms round his neck, and over-

whelmed him with thanks. On his side, he was not behind-hand with me in politeness, and although he approved of the reason which made me keep my room, he said he lamented me very much, to be reduced to lead so irksome a life; that he would advise me rather to travel, to go see Venice, Bologna, Pisa, and Florence; that I would find in those cities wherewith to amuse me agreeably, and that I might finally return to Rome when I should think proper.

I gave Sayavedra to understand he could advise me to nothing which was more to my taste, and that I would shortly follow his counsel, provided my master, without whose permission I could not think of going, consented to it. Then my Andalusian, a native of Florence, and the devil and a half of a thief, gave me a charming description of all those cities, in order still to infuse

in me a greater desire of seeing them. He inspired in me so great an inclination, that the morning after, when dressing the Ambassador, I said to him, My lord, I know not if you will approve of a design I have formed, with submission to your good pleasure. I should wish very much to travel through the whole of Italy. I imagine I should not do wrong to withdraw from Rome for some time. His Excellency at these words felt an emotion of joy, which he could not refrain from shewing. Gusman, cried he, a better thought could not enter your head. Yes, my friend, you will do very well to absent yourself at least for some months, that cannot but produce a good effect for us both: for I am not ignorant of the reports which are spreading to my disadvantage, especially since your last adventure. We are caricatured in every quarter, and hold a genteel place in all

the sonnets of the day. I have got charitable information of all this. In a word, we are under the necessity of separating. I have sometimes had a mind to tell you of it, but could not bring myself to do it, so great was my regret to part with you, and am glad that you yourself have taken it into your head to travel, and saved me the mortification of announcing to you the necessity of our separation. The consequence is, my dear Gusman, continued this good master, you may depend on me to put you in a situation to visit agreeably all those countries you wish to travel through; finally, I will treat you as a servant I love, and whom I dismiss with the most unfeigned regret.

Thus spoke my Ambassador. I rendered an infinity of thanks for those favorable sentiments he testified to me; and I was no sooner out of his apart-

ment, than I charged one of the scullions to go seek me out the carrier of Sienna. Afterwards I retired to my chamber, to employ myself with preparations for my journey. I already began to lock up properly my clothes and effects in three boxes, which served me as a wardrobe, when I received a second visit from Sayavedra, whom I placed in the number of my best friends. He testified some astonishment at the sight of my equipment and furniture, spread out in my chamber, and of the boxes open before me. How then, Signor Gusman, cried he, have you resolved on following the advice I have given you? You have guessed it, answered I. My master, to whom I have spoken of my design, has permitted me to execute it: It is ultimately settled on. In two days I set off for Sienna, where I purpose stopping a few days in the house of a merchant, a

friend of mine, named Pompey. I am not personally acquainted with him; but he is a man to whom I have rendered some service here, and who manifests, by his letters, so much gratitude, that I have every room to believe he will be very glad to receive me in his house. Thus I hope to have some pleasure in Sienna, where I am going to-day to send my clothes to the address of Pompey, not to be embarrassed with them on the road..

If Sayavedra appeared attentive to what I was telling him, he was not less so to see me arrange my effects in the boxes. He remarked well, particularly, where I placed my most precious articles, and which, through vanity, I was not sorry he saw. He forgot not to observe in what place I put a gold chain, with some jewels, and three hundred good Spanish pistoles, which I had laid by in the house of my Ambas-

sador, for I did not amuse myself in this mansion, as in the others, playing cards. I had preserved, with a great deal of care, all the presents I received. Happy, if it had been for myself, and not for thieves, I had taken so much pains! I filled the other two boxes with my most common effects, and, after having locked them well, I left my keys on the table, which were tied together; we then continued to converse together, until a servant came to tell me, that one wanted me below. As my room appeared to me then very unsuitable to receive any company in it, I besought my new friend to permit me to leave him for a moment, and went to see who might be the person that wanted to speak to me. It was the carrier of Sienna, whom I no longer remembered to have sent for.

I learned from him the time of his departure, and, in order to agree with

him for what I should give for the carriage of my boxes, made him come up stairs with me to my chamber. During that time Sayavedra did his duty. This thief, seeing himself alone, made use of a bit of wax he had through precaution in his pocket, took the impression of my keys, and pocketed a letter which he found on the same table, and which he knew to be Pompey's.

I shewed my boxes to the carrier, who raised them a little off the ground, to be the better able to judge of their weight. I gave him the money he asked for carrying them to Sienna, to the house of Signor Pompey; and he went off, telling me he was going for some people to help him to carry off the boxes, and that he would set off in three hours. An instant after he was gone, my friend the Spaniard wished to take his leave of me, under pretext of leaving me more at liberty to finish the

preparations for my journey. I had in vain assured him he did not incommode me, and wanted him even to breakfast with me;—nothing could detain him, so much impatience had he to quit me, to go and get his false keys made. At least, said I, my dear countryman, tell me your abode. It would be very ungrateful of me, if I should leave Rome without paying you a visit. Thereupon, after having answered me that he dispensed with me in that respect, he gave me to understand, by a mysterious air, he lodged in the house of a lady, where, for reasons a gentleman would be above speaking of, it was necessary he should deprive himself of the pleasure of receiving his friends.

Having nothing to reply to that, I pressed no longer this *man of good fortune* to stop with me, who ran immediately to his confederates to concert with them the manner they were to

follow, in order to take possession of my boxes. His comrades were four cheats, three of whom, as well as he, acknowledged for their chief a thorough-paced robber and swindler, named Alexander Bentivoglio. He conducted the enterprises which the others formed in common. It was he who distributed the parts to the others they were to act, and played the first character himself; but he yielded in this piece the principal personage to Sayavedra, who being a Spaniard, appeared to him more proper than any of the others to represent a Castilian. They equipped themselves, then, in the manner they thought best, having clothes of all fashions to disguise their honest persons, and took the road to Sienna the day following, where they arrived the day after that. Sayavedra, followed by two others, who wore large livery coats, went to lodge at the best inn in the

city, styling himself gentleman to the Ambassador of Spain. With regard to my friend Alexander, who was known over all Italy for what he was, he dared not make the third lackey. He thought it better to seek out an humbler and less frequented lodging with the fourth gentleman of his retinue. Sayavedra, speaking first in the tone of a master, caused at first the handsomest apartment to be given; then having a little adjusted himself, he sent one of his suite to tell Signor Pompey, that Don Gusman, his friend, would soon arrive by the post at Sienna, and that he felt himself so fatigued with the journey, he requested he would excuse him for not going to lodge at his house. Pompey, rejoiced to hear of the arrival of Don Gusman, abandoned all to go seek a friend to whom he was so indebted. He flew to the inn, and found, in a well-lighted room, a gentleman reclin-

ing on a couch. The latter, seeing him enter, instantly bounced up, and ran to meet him with open arms, saying, Ah! Signor Pompey, I flatter myself you will pardon the liberty I have taken to address my boxes to you. That is not your greatest fault, replied Pompey, smiling, I am truly angry with you for not alighting at my house. Nothing is more polite, replied the false Gusman; but I will tell you, in order to justify myself, that I am really so fatigued by so long travelling post, that I could not resolve on incommoding you. Quite the contrary, replied the merchant, that ought to engage you to prefer my house to an inn. Another reason still, said Sayavedra, has prevailed over the desire I had of going to lodge with you, I am only passing through Sienna; to-morrow I set off for Florence, by order of the Ambassador, my dear master, to acquit my-

self of a commission with which he has charged me. I therefore did not think proper to incommode you for the little time I had to stay; but patience, added he, with a gracious smile, I will return in eight or ten days, and think I can then tarry some time with you.

Pompey failed not to press him to come sup and sleep with him, although it was but for one night itself; but the false Gusman resisted his entreaties so positively, that the merchant, fearing the unsuitableness of too much importunity, left him to his choice, in assuring him that he would return to the inn in the morning, to be by at his departure, and wish him a good journey. Thereupon Sayavedra said aloud to one of his servants, Here, Gradelin, are the keys of my boxes. Go to the house of Signor Pompey, who is good enough not to feel inconvenienced with the trouble I am giving him, and bring

me what clothes and linen I will want for eight days. Fetch also my morning gown, which you will find in the largest box. It is better, interrupted Pompey, entangling himself of his own accord, it is a good deal better to have your coffers brought here to you, and you can take out yourself the things that are necessary for you. You are right, said the false Gusman; I will make a parcel of the clothes I shall absolutely want; I will put it in the smallest of the boxes; that I will take with me to Florence, and send you the other two, which you will have the goodness to keep for me until my return.

The merchant afterwards left the inn, and, half an hour after, my three unfortunate boxes were carried in by the companions of Sayavedra, and a stable-boy they picked up. They were accompanied by a man, who presented to the false Gusman, as a present from his

friend Pompey a basket of excellent fruits, with six bottles of admirable wine. This douceur was received with all the demonstration of the most grateful acknowledgments by my honest *countryman* of *Florence*, Mr. Sayavedra, who, after having made a small donation to the merchant's domestic, charged him with a thousand compliments for his master.

Scarcely were the coffers in the inn, when Alexander Bentivoglio, who knew already the lucky success of their scheme, made his appearance. They opened two quite easy with the keys they had, and picked the lock of the third, which contained my money and jewels, which they divided, or, more properly speaking, Alexander the great ruffian principally appropriated to himself; for he was a bravado whom the others feared, and who gave them whatever part he thought proper of the

plundered spoils. He was pleased to give each of them thirty pistoles, and the worst of the clothes;—after which he filled the little box with my best apparel, and put straw and stones into the other two; then, without losing any time, he sent one of his sacred band to engage some post-horses to set off at day-break, and take the road to Florence. This was all executed without delay by those honest gentlemen, who paid the innkeeper, recommending him to have the boxes sent back in the morning to the merchant's, which they were leaving after them in the inn.

Whilst all this fine business was passing in Sienna, I was employed at Rome in bidding adieu to some sincere friends, without the smallest presentiment of the trick that was played on me. There remained no more for me to do but to take leave of my dear master. I entered one morning with a sad counte-

nance into his chamber; the tears irresistibly streamed from my eyes, and after having solemnly protested I would never forget all his former generous and disinterested friendship, threw myself at his knees, and kissing one of his hands, bathed it with the gushing torrent of my eyes. He was moved with my grief, and gave me to understand he was losing me with the most lively regret. This good nobleman exhorted me to virtue with that tenderness and affection he would have spoken to his own son: he even embraced me, and, putting round my neck a gold chain which he usually wore, said he gave me that to make me remember him every time I looked at it. He added to this mark of his friendship a purse of fifty pistoles, and one of the best horses in his stables. All the servants, by his example, shewed themselves sorry for my removal. At the bottom,

very far from disobliging them with my master, I had often rendered them some good offices, and there was not one of them who had ever any cause to complain of me.

CHAP. VII.

Gusman at length quits Rome.—He arrives at Sienna, and puts up at his friend Pompey's house, who tells him some very unpleasant News.—He meets with Sayavedra, and takes him into his Service.

THE morning following I left that city mounted as a prince, poorer than I thought, affecting a gallant air, and my head filled with ideas which promised me an infinity of pleasure. I was drawing nigh to Sienna, where I imagined my friend Pompey in the most lively impatience to see me. On arriving there, I asked where he dwelt, and went straightway to his house.

He was at home; he received me

civilly enough, and with an embarrassed look. Signor Pompey, said I, embracing him, suffer Gusman, your friend, to testify the extreme joy he has to see you, and to know you at last personally. My friend could not, without turning pale, hear me pronounce my name. What! can you, answered he with surprise, can you be the same Gusman, to whom I am under a thousand and a thousand obligations? I trembled at these words, without knowing why, and drew a bad omen from them. Whence comes, replied I with emotion, whence comes that astonisnment, which you shew in your countenance? It is what you will know very soon, answered he. I see very well that I have been the dupe, and that you are truly the Gusman of Alfarache, whom I expected here.

I was struck with those words as with a thunder-bolt, and foresaw in an in-

stant, that some misfortune had happened to my dear boxes. Impatient to get to the bottom of this mystery, I besought Pompey to explain himself more clearly. Very well, said he, you must understand that there passed through Sienna a cavalier, callihg himself gentleman to the Ambassador of Spain, coming from Rome with two servants, and going to Florence by order of his master. This cavalier gave out that he was that Gusman of Alfarache, who had rendered me service in an affair I had at Rome, and had the keys of your boxes. I thought I would fall into convulsions, when I heard him speak in this manner, and a circumstantial detail he gave me of the whole adventure, threw me into despsir. I signified to the merchant I wished to see my boxes. He immediately conducted me to the apartment, which he had prepared for me, and there shewing me my

two large coffers, Behold, said he, those they have not carried away; but they had them in their power as well as the third. I sighed bitterly in remembering that my gold and jewels were exactly in the one which was wanting; I failed not to open the others, and it would have been happy for me, at least some consolation, if the thieves, satisfied with having money, had not meddled with my clothes; I would have, I believe, acknowledged them for honest people.

I must render this justice to Pompey, he was not less afflicted than myself, when I apprised him they had robbed me to the amount of two thousand crowns. After all, his affliction might be the effect of the fear he had, that I should oblige him to answer for my stolen effects, whatever good reasons he might allege for his justification. He however need not apprehend that

by any means. Instead of thinking to disturb him thereupon, I affected to conceal the grief that was consuming me. It appeared to me, that a person who wished to ape the little nobleman, should not shew himself much grieved for the loss of his clothes. I was however infinitely so; and had so much the more reason for it, as I had no other coat, than the one I had on my back, nor any linen but two shirts I had in my portmanteau.

I tormented my imagination to no purpose, to guess who could have taken the impression or model of my keys; I knew not on whom my suspicions ought to fall. As for Sayavedra, I esteemed him too much to distrust him. It was not however the fault of Pompey, if I had so much difficulty to discover the author of the thievery, since in relating the whole story to me, when he drew the portrait of the false Gus-

man, he painted out a trait for my honest *Florentine countryman* Sayavedra, his shape, his hair, his countenance, and his voice. I was so prepossessed in his favour, I would have judged myself criminal to suspect him on the like resemblances. I will say more, although I remembered to have left him alone in my chamber, the day the carrier of Sienna came to see my boxes, my prepossession for Sayavedra was the cause of this remembrance.

Whilst we were making, my host and I, useless reflections on the thief, a servant came to announce to us supper was ready. We descended to the dining-room, and sat down to table without appetite, and with faces that would beggar description. Pompey perceiving the bits to remain in my mouth, said to me, Signor Gusman, your effects are not so entirely lost but they may be recovered yet. I have made my inqui-

ries. I have sent after the heels of our robbers the captain of the watch, who is one of my friends, and assure you I depend greatly on him. He will return this night or to-morrow. I hope he will bring us some good news. I wish so, answered I; but between you and me, there is no great good to be got of those people on the article of restitution.

Although the table was covered with delicious meats, and that we had excellent wines, we were so little in humour to eat or drink, that we soon finished our supper. Afterwards, as I gave some signs of fatigue, my host reconducted me to my apartment, where an instant after he left me alone. In that he obliged me, for his conversation began to be very irksome. I passed a part of the night walking about my chamber, buried in the most bitter reflections, and only lay down at the

approach of day. I had my mind so overwhelmed with different suggestions, which successively tormented me, that I at last fell asleep. It was not of long duration. A great noise on the stairs, instantly awoke me. I heard several voices cry out together, "Here is the robber! Here is the robber!"

I drew back the curtains, not being able to believe my ears, and was going to get up to know what I ought to think of the matter, when I saw run into the room, quite out of breath, the wife, children, and servants of the merchant, who, continuing to speak altogether, repeated to me what I had already heard. I besought the wife, who was seemingly the most reasonable person in the group, to explain to me what the affair signified. It *signifies*, *signifies*, said she, that the police captain will be here presently with one of your rob-

bers; he has sent one of his archers before him to inform Pompey, who is now dressing himself to present him to you. My host, in fact, delayed not long in bringing the archer to me, whom I interrogated. He informed me the robber who had been taken, was identically the person that played the part of Gusman.

This news set my blood in motion again. I began to flatter myself, that I might recover at least a part of my effects, as we had in our hands the author of the robbery. My host had also the same thought, and every one in the house was in an inconceivable joy at this fortunate event. I gave a pistole to the archer for having come in full gallop to announce it to me, and dressed myself in haste to go and examine the thief, whom he had represented to me. Pompey on his side got ready to accompany me, in order to speak to

the judges in my favour. At the time we were thus reasoning together, a servant of the house ran to tell us that the officer of the watch was on horseback at the door, whilst his archers were leading the impostor to prison. The merchant sent his servant to request, in my name, Mr. the Provost to alight, and come up to his apartment.

The swaggering knight-errant, entered as if in triumph. He told us at first of the intrepid manner in which he arrested the robber, and losing himself in digressions, which did very little honour to his modesty, rendered me quite impatient. I interrupted his heroic recital, to ask him what concerned me more to know, that is, some news of my money.—As for the money, answered he with a careless air, he had upon him but twenty-five pistoles, and that is no way astonishing. Although he has acted the first personage in the

piece, he is not the chief of the band. It is a certain Alexander Bentivoglio, of whom I have often heard before but too much, and who will one day most certainly fall into my paws. However, console yourself, pursued he; we have in our power the wretch, who is the cause of your misfortune, and whom I promise you shall see swing for this transgression. At this impertinent discourse, I could scarce restrain my indignation. I could willingly have become the hangman myself of Mr. the gasconading provost, of the archer for my pistole, and of the merchant, for having through his imprudence thrown me into my present embarrassment. I was cordially enraged against them all. The captain of the watch perceiving the little satisfaction I had from his discourse, instead of the recompence which he expected, went off very much dissatisfied with my lordship, saying to

my host, that if he thought I knew so badly how to acknowledge what was done for me, he would not have given himself so much trouble.

After he was gone out, Pompey called for his cloak, and told me he would go and solicit the judges in my behalf. As for me, curious to see the thief, who was in prison, I went thither; and it was not without astonishment I recognized in him my *Florentine countryman* Sayavedra, notwithstanding the resembling portrait, that had been made of that thorough-paced knave. As soon as he saw me, he came to throw himself at my feet. He was paler than death. He begged my pardon: My dear, noble Don Gusman, said he all in tears, have pity on an unfortunate young man, who is sincerely sorry to have deceived you. He was going on, for he had prepared a long harangue in order to excite my pity; but I gave him

no time to continue. I loaded him with reproaches, and in the torrent of my abuse, insensibly felt my indignation gradually diminish. All the emotions of passion which agitated me, made room for some sentiments of compassion, which I should have had the weakness to give some marks of, if I had not taken the resolution to withdraw abruptly from a traitor, who would have been at least sent to the gallies, if the justice of Sienna had had then ministers ever so little inclined to severity.

The judges of that time, you shall see, friendly reader, did what a thousand others have done before them, and what ten thousand others have done since. They deputed to me the day following one of their clerks, to take down my deposition against the imprisoned robber. I told him I would, if he would cause to be restored to me

all I was robbed of, otherwise I would not; that I sought not the death of a sinner; that my purse, though they should crucify him, would not be in a better condition for that: in a word, that I wished for nothing but my money and effects, and consequently renounced them for ever, since they were in too good hands ever to come at again. The clerk had no sooner made report to the judges of what I had said to him, than considering there was no more money to be made in this process, but what they had already found on the *nabbed* impostor, they were pleased to condemn him to the * Iron-collar for two or three hours, and perpetual exile from the territory of Sienna. Those equitable magistrates to excuse

* Carcan or carquan, (French) or collana di ferro, che portano al collo i malefattori, in Italian; an iron collar, much like to our pillory, for the punishment of petty crimes.

so lenient a chastisement said, that the culprit having no mark of prior punishment on his shoulders, it was a proof he had never been caught in a fault before, and consequently merited some indulgences. Fine reason, indeed, to favor a professional robber! Is it not a very judicious judgment to banish him from a country wherein he has robbed? It is as if they would say, Go thy ways, my friend, we permit you to rob elsewhere.

I knew not as yet to what the judges had condemned Sayavedra, and was at dinner with Pompey, when a servant of the house, who had heard the sentence pronounced, came into the room quite out of breath, and with an air as contented as if he had brought me back my effects: I give you joy, Signor Don Gusman, cried he, I give you joy! Your thief is condemned to the iron-collar, and they will very soon tie

him up. You may, if you choose, see this execution. At that moment I wished this fool had been my servant, and to be in a place where I might be at liberty to knock the teeth down his throat. I never in all my life was so tempted to strike any man, as I was on this occasion; I was, however, obliged to devour my vexation, as well as the cold shoulder my host gave me from that very day. He passed all at once from one extreme to another; he looked no longer on me but as a stranger completely in his way, and whose absence would be good company. I therefore took leave of him the following day.

I had so great a desire to get away from Sienna, that I clapped spurs to my horse, and disappeared like lightning from the eyes of the rascal Pompey. When I had travelled some miles, I perceived afar off a man on foot, who appeared to me to have the

whole air of my scoundrel Sayavedra. It was in fact he himself, who, in order to obey the sentence of the law, which condemned him to exile, was hastening to get out of the territory of Sienna, to go practise his talents in another.

I could not withstand an emotion of pity at the sight of this wretch; and remembering less the treachery he had done me, than the service he had rendered me in the adventure of the pig, I had not the resolution to pass him by without speaking to him. He knew me also at a distance, and when I came up, or rather was passing him by, he approached me immediately, his eyes streaming with tears, and embracing my boot, to ask a thousand pardons for his perfidy and ingratitude. He added, that he wished with all his soul, in order to expiate his crime, to serve me as a slave the rest of his life; and that

if I would take him for my servant, I might depend on the oath he swore to be the most faithful of adherents. After having made my reflections upon what he proposed to me, I thought it would not be badly done to accept of his offer.

I took then to my service Sayavedra; and had as much cause afterwards to think myself fortunate for this rencounter, as I had before to esteem myself unlucky to have ever known him. He made me soon see, when we arrived at the next lodging, that I had not made a bad bargain in attaching him to me. He was incessantly in motion to endeavour to render by his attention the lodging commodious. I admired his cares in providing for my necessities, and preventing all my desires. In truth, the ardor of his zeal, and great ingenuity, of which he every moment gave me some proofs, consoled me for the

loss of my money and clothes. The day following, very early in the morning, we set out again on our journey, one on horseback and the other on foot, and arrived at length in Florence, which was described to me in the most flattering colours; however, whatever eulogiums were made me of it, it surprised me by the magnificence of its buildings. Sayavedra, who observed me, said, smiling, The sight of this city, I think, strikes you agreeably. I am charmed with it, answered I. It appears to me truly amiable. I thought there was no such place in the world as Rome. Oh! truly, replied he, you see but the outside, and situation, which undoubtedly have a pleasing effect; but it is the inside you must consider. The houses of private people, which might pass for so many palaces, are ornamented with an infinity of fine works of architecture. It is with rea-

son Florence is called the eighth wonder of the world, since it is the flower of flowers, and the flower of all Italy. Sayavedra, having got into a train of talking, told me the history of Florence, from the civil wars of Catiline to the present day.

My squire, who knew this city perfectly, having lived in it for some time, conducted me to one of its most famous inns, where he was pleased to make me pass for a Spanish gentleman, named Don Gusman, nephew to the Ambassador of Spain at Rome. He imparted with effrontery to the landlord the secret of my quality. As we were without baggage, and had even but one horse, the story seemed a little against probability; but my valet, in order to bring matters to some appearance of truth, said, that being obliged to set off in haste, we had charged a person to send our packets after us by the carrier,

whom we every moment expected. Although the inn was full of gentlemen of importance, he caused to be prepared for me one of the best apartments. He made the inn-keeper believe I came to Florence on the part of the Ambassador, upon an affair of consequence, and that probably I would make some very considerably delay. This rejoiced Mr. Boniface extremely, and was the cause of his very respectful demeanor. The prudent Sayavedra was of opinion, we should buy a large chest in the morning, which we would say was full of our best effects, and that we would afterwards fill it with whatever fortune should be pleased to throw in our way. I approved of his thought, and charged him with the care of this purchase.

CHAP. VIII.

Gusman appears at the Court of the Grand Duke. A Lady falls in love with him.

The Grand Duchess, at that time, happened to lie in of a prince, or rather to recover from her lying-in, and every day there was some *fête* or another at the palace, where all persons of distinction of both sexes constantly visited, and were each splendidly entertained. The gentlemen, who lodged in our inn, were all the best nobility of the country, and who had come to Florence to share in the general diversions, shewed themselves the more assiduous, as by that they made their court to their prince. My landlord asked me the first night, if I would sup alone or with those gentlemen. I answered, I would be glad to have the honour to sup with

them; and the hour of supper being come, I entered the room where they were all preparing to sit down to table. I appeared with an easy, unaffected air, assuming the man of rank, which I well understood how to act, and after having saluted them all cavalierly, went to sit at the upper end of the table, on a chair which Sayavedra had presented me there, who knew to a miracle how to discharge the duty of a lackey, or even to give instructions to the ripest of them.

This beginning drew on me the looks of all those gentlemen, who, wishing to know what I was, or where I came from, asked each other to no purpose in a low voice concerning me. They had a great impatience to hear me speak, in order to discover, by my accent, what nation I was from. I had the malice to keep them in doubt with respect to that. They had in vain, by

some little civilities, endeavoured to make me enter into conversation with them; I answered them less by words than by bows and polite inclinations of my head. Nevertheless, as I could not avoid letting drop some expressions, I passed for a Roman in their opinion. But having given orders in Spanish to Sayavedra, I puzzled them again. One of those gentlemen, more curious than the others, got up from table to go question the inn-keeper on my account. Having soon returned again to his seat, with a satisfied air, he spoke quite low to those who sat next him, and those in their turn to the next to them again; behold me acknowledged at length by the whole company for the nephew of the ambassador of Spain.

Supper being over, all the nobles looking on me as a young nobleman, made a circle round me, and one of the chief of them addressing me, said, Per-

haps I did not know as yet that there was almost every day a ball at court for the birth of a young prince; that there would be one that night, and if I had the smallest inclination to go there, those gentlemen and he would do themselves the pleasure to conduct me there. I answered this gentleman, that so obliging an offer was not to be rejected; though indeed my travelling dress opposed a little my curiosity; however, as I was not known in Florence, I would think it an honour to accompany those gentlemen, to partake with them a diversion, which I was distractedly fond of. They were all magnificently dressed. As for me, I could do no more than to put on one of the clean shirts which were in my portmanteau, and adjust myself a little; however, badly clothed as I was, in comparison to the others, I am going

to tell you, gentle reader, an extraordinary circumstance.

When we entered the ball-room where the Grand Duke was before us, and a great assembly with him, this prince fixed his eyes on me. I was at first disconcerted. I imagined he found my dress a little too modest, or something ultimately ridiculous in my person; and what finished to persuade me to this opinion, is, that he made me be remarked by a nobleman of his court, to whom he spoke quite low, in such a manner as I conceived it to be, in order to inform himself who I was. I was not deceived. The courtier, whom I did not lose sight of, pierced through the crowd, to come join one of the gentlemen with whom I was, said something in his ear, and after getting an answer on the same key, returned to the Grand Duke, to whom I

perceived he gave an account of his commission. All those movements appeared to me equivocal enough, and I knew not yet what I ought to judge of them, when the same gentleman, to whom the courtier had spoken, approached and said to me, My Lord, every one knows you here. The Grand Duke is apprised that you are a relative of the Spanish ambassador at Rome.— I advise you to go immediately and salute the prince. He is incessantly looking at you, and apparently wishes you should take that liberty.

I followed the gentleman's advice, believing I could not dispense with that ceremony. I advanced towards the Grand Duke, who, penetrating my design, had the goodness to make way for me himself. I began by a profound bow. Afterwards I spoke in Italian to his highness with an air altogether easy and respectful, that I had but just ar-

rived at Florence, and asked a thousand pardons for daring to come thus equipped to render my very humble respects in a ball-room; but happening to understand that he had the curiosity to know my name, I came myself in person to inform him. I know it already, answered the prince, and am not a little surprised to hear a Spaniard speak Italian as well as a native Roman. I replied to that in Spanish, that I had made a pretty long stay in Rome. He, in his turn remarked, speaking in the Castilian language, which he knew very well, that rarely people of my country learned to speak Italian perfectly. Then making the conversation fall on my uncle the Ambassador, he told me he knew him very well, having more than once some momentous affairs to treat with him upon; that he esteemed him, and wished to have an opportunity to testify it to him in my

person. He had afterwards the goodness to invite me to frequent his court, and to speak a thousand obliging things, to which I answered not but by reverences down to the ground. That was not all. The Grand Duchess arrived at this moment. I had the honour to salute her also, and to be introduced to her by the Prince her husband, who told her my name and alliance

The ball then began. I withdrew immediately aside to make room for the dancers. After two or three dances, a lady who was going to dance in her turn, and to whom the Duke had made signs to take me as a partner, came to me; I shewed some disinclination to dance, though it was the fiddle of my heart. I apologized to her on account of my undress. The Prince, who observed me, cried out, in order to finish the contest, that though I wore boots, I could not refuse dancing with so

amiable a lady. By this precise order, I ceased to stand any longer on ceremony. I obeyed, and danced with so much grace and nobleness, that I attracted the applause of the whole assembly. The Grand Duchess, especially, who preferred Terpsichore to all the other muses, was so pleased with me, that she obliged me to dance several new dances, wherein I acquitted myself equally well.

The Grand Duchess, who had not danced since her *accouchement*, took a fancy to dance with me. For that time, foreseeing the consequence, I did all in my power to decline that honour. I could not, however, avoid it. The Grand Duke, though he approved the respect I thereby shewed the Princess, signified to me by a nod, that he wished I would comply with her request. There was no more wanting. I danced then, and infinitely better than before,

which so pleased the Duchess, that she shewed no fatigue whatsoever dancing with me. I thought she would never stop. The prince was obliged to beseech her to desist, lest too much exertion should distress her. The ball then finished. Their highnesses withdrew. I accompanied them to their apartment with the other lords of the court, and returned afterwards with a hurried air to the ball-room, where I found a handsome brunette who was ready to retire. I knew so well how to ape the passionate lover, that I had the satisfaction to remark she left me with regret. As soon as I saw myself separated, I resumed the way to the inn with our gentlemen, who rejoined me. I was so taken up with the honours I received that night, that I answered very badly the compliments those gentlemen paid me on the talent I had for dancing. Being arrived at the inn, we took leave

of one another very politely, and each retired to his chamber.

When I saw myself in mine with Sayavedra—my friend, said I, I am almost suffocated with joy. I would be stifled if I discharged not my heart. At the same time I detailed to him all that happened to me at the ball, the principal pleasure of which I myself contributed to, the infinite applauses bestowed on me by the Duchess, and the obliging reception the Archduke had given me. We employed, Sayavedra and I, more than half the night in building castles in the air, and deliberating on what we should do to conduct this adventure to a fortunate conclusion. We determined finally in our consultation upon buying the day following the large box we had already spoken of, and that I should purchase the best dress my purse could afford, in order to support at court the personage I had begun to play.

This resolution taken, I charged my valet to rise very early to execute it; after which I sent him to bed. As for me, I closed not an eye the whole night, and it was already far in the day, when by force of rocking myself with chimeras, I slumbered a little. My sleep did not last long; Sayavedra, who returned from executing his commission, entered my chamber and awoke me. He was followed by a tailor, in whose house he had found a coat ready made, which had never been worn.—The tailor told me the coat was bespoke by a young nobleman, who had suddenly disappeared from court, after having lost there at play a very large sum, and consequently lay on his hands, and that I should have a good bargain of it. I got up immediately to try it on, and by the greatest good luck in the world, it could not have fitted me better if it were made purposely for me. No-

thing more was wanting but to know what he would sell it for. We agreed thereupon, after a dispute, which would have been longer if the tailor had not had need of money, and I a furious desire to have the coat, to which I made him add some gold lace according to my own fancy, which finished, rendered it completely in the Roman fashion.

No sooner had I paid and sent away my tailor, than my landlord came up to my room, to tell me that he had brought me, on the part of the Grand Duke, whilst I was asleep, a regalement of wine, fruits and sweetmeats; a present, which that prince was accustomed to make to those illustrious strangers who visited or passed through his court; but that he had not presumed to trouble my repose, in order to inform me of it. I was no way sorry not to have seen the gentleman whom the Duke had commissioned to bring me the present; I should, of course, pay

the custom: In the necessity I had of all the money to put myself in a situation of shining at court, I could not be too sparing of it. I believed, then, those presents would come scot-free to me; but I was deceived: Scarcely had the landlord carried into my chamber the wine and fruits of the prince, than the same gentleman, whom his Royal Highness had sent with them, was announced to me. I was obliged to listen to his common-place harangue, which he finished, in telling me that the Duchess wished to see me after dinner. I exhausted myself in compliments to this gentleman, whom Sayavedra, as a well-bred squire, waited for at the door to slip a few crowns into his hand. I amused myself afterwards in trying on the rest of my bargains, such as silk stockings, a beautiful trimmed hat, ribbands, dress shoes, linen, gloves, and all other necessaries suitable to my

coat. Seeing that nothing was wanting, I began to shave, comb, scrape off the old dirt and powder; then having dressed myself fully, in looking at myself incessantly in the glass, I turned about to my confidant, to ask him if he thought there was any thing wanting to be added to my adjustment. He answered that he found me so very well dressed, he would be greatly deceived if that day I did not make all the gallants die with jealousy, and all the ladies with love. I did not forget, in the mean time, to wear my handsome gold chain, and to fasten to the end of it, with a beautiful ribband, a portrait in miniature of my dear master, which he had given me on the eve of my departure.

I was, like another Narcissus, inchanted with myself. I would already have wished to be at the palace, so much impatience had I to sport my figure there. I believe I would have

gone there without eating a bit, if Sayavedra had not represented to me that I ought not to neglect the inside; that the outside depended greatly on it, and that a stomach well crammed was a great deal better than an empty one to give a good complexion. I eat some bits of what my confidant had brought into my room; still I had such apprehensions of soiling myself, it was not without the greatest inquietude I finished my dinner. I tasted some of the Grand Duke's fruits, and drank some cups of * verdéc, with which this prince accompanied the fruits. I found this wine exquisite, and judged it threw something brilliant in my conversation, though I should even take it but moderately. After this light repast, I strutted with my arms a-kimbo about my

* Verdée, white Florentine wine, so called in French: In the Tuscan, or Italian language, it is called Verde-dea, Green Goddess.

room. I consulted my squire again on my person, and he assured me I was a gentleman perfect. Upon his testimony, confirmed by my own self-love, I set out with Sayavedra for the palace, who, to do me the more honor, had made some purchases for himself at the expence of my purse, which was dreadfully weakened by the frequent bleedings it met with.

I was received at the Grand Duke's with all the honours my uncle the Ambassador himself could have expected, were he in my place. The prince at first made me some compliments, which I owed chiefly to my good mien and gentility. Afterwards he brought our Ambassador on the tapis, and said some things to me, in hopes that, at my return to Rome, I would report to his Excellency. He was the most political prince in the world. He principally spoke in order to make me say something; one time by flattering expres-

sions, another time by little contradictions, he endeavoured to engage me to reason on very delicate matters.

He flattered himself some things of moment might escape me, from which he could draw some important discoveries; which, without doubt, would have happened, if I had been capable of betraying my master, who, through complaisance or weakness, had very often conversed with me on his most secret affairs; but I kept myself so well on my guard with the Grand Duke, who had in vain detained me with him two hours for that purpose, that I let not a single word fall indiscreetly. He ceased at length to feel my pulse; and, changing his discourse, lest he should inspire me with any mistrust, he bid me to go see the Duchess, who was impatiently waiting for me. I was very glad he dismissed me, to get rid of a conversation which was grow-

ing very tiresome, and flew to the apartments of the princess, who in fact was beginning to grow impatient for my delay. Why then, said her highness, have you been so long with the Grand Duke? Madam, said I, aping the discreet statesman, I had several questions to answer him respecting the courts of Rome and Spain. That carried us farther, and hindered me from coming sooner to receive your orders. I have, replied the Duchess, taken a great pleasure last night to see you dance, especially your two last dances. I have an inclination to learn them, and wish you would shew them to me. I answered that I wished nothing better than to render her my most humble services. She had so much desire for the dance, that, in less than two hours, I put her so fully in possession of the two dances, as to be able to dance them the evening following at the ball, and

promised her, in order that she should be more certain of the steps, that I would, after dinner the next day, come and give her another lesson. She anticipated the supreme pleasure the general surprise she would cause in dancing those new dances, and forbid me to speak to any one of it.

It was a very fine concert, which was that day to constitute the chief diversion of the court, and I did not fail to appear there with all my merit, after having supped lightly at the inn. Who could believe that a day so agreeable for me was followed by the most unfortunate of my whole life? The morning following this concert, having risen for the purpose of going to hear mass at the chapel of the Annunciation, which is the handsomest church in the city, and the rendezvous of all the nobility, I met there an officer of the Grand Duke: he was more jealous than

I thought of the favour I was in with their highnesses. I saluted him, and we began insensibly to enter into conversation. In the midst of our discourse, a beggar, whom I had dismissed twice before without looking at him, came the third time to ask alms of me. Pre-occupied as I was with a conversation which interested me, I grew impatient, and, striking the pauper rudely on the face with my glove, Villainous beggar, said I, will you not leave me in repose? This wretch, exasperated at this rebuff, answered me in those terms —"Mr. Gusman, if all the world received you after that manner, when you were my comrade, you would not this day ape so much of the nobleman." At the voice of this man, whose words I distinctly heard, I cast my eyes on him, and recollected him to be a beggar who had been one of my dearest companions, when I belonged to the com-

fraternity of beggars in Rome. I reddened, and grew pale at the same moment: I darted at him a look, wherein all my rage was depicted. Very far from dreading my indignation, he grinned in my face, made a wry mouth at me, and withdrew, muttering against me the vilest abuse. Some gentlemen, who were round us, having heard the manner wherein the beggar accosted me, and remarking that I was quite disconcerted, were all extremely surprised. The officer, wishing to sound the affair to the bottom, followed the beggar without seeming to do so, and came up with him at the gate of the church, where he stopped. He took him aside, and, after slipping some money into his hand, asked him if he knew me well enough to have dared to say what he had spoken. The beggar, still incensed against me, related to him my history, from my first entrance

into Rome, to my discharge from the Spanish Ambassador's.

Very soon all the courtiers knew my adventures, and, in less than a quarter of an hour, the Grand Duke himself was informed of it. This prince only laughed at first at the news; however, following his ordinary prudence, he wished to investigate the matter more fully. After all the marks of goodness the princess and he bestowed on me, he thought it his duty to dive to the bottom of the mystery:—He ordered the beggar to be privately conducted to him, that he might hear him himself. In order to obey him, one went to look for the beggar, whom the Duke, hidden behind a screen, heard without being seen. When this prince had attentively listened to the fine narration this wretch gave of my adventures, he gave orders to have him sent to prison, and that he should be well treated, under a prohi-

bition of letting him speak to no one, until the whole affair should be ultimately discovered.

During that time, I was not entirely tranquil, though I had no suspicion of the new face my affairs were assuming. It is true, the cruel event of the morning was very mortifying to me; but I reckoned, that on giving some money to the beggar, I would oblige him to quit the city, or at least to hold his tongue. I had returned to the church after mass, in hopes of meeting the scoundrel, and not having found him there, I put off the appeasing of him until the day following. As for the words he had dropped, I determined on turning them into ridicule, if any one should speak to me about them, and to make them pass for an insolence, which had been given me by a wretch, whom I had ill-treated. In a word, I almost thought no more of it, and betook my-

self after dinner to the palace, at the usual hour. I presented myself to see the Duke, and was told he was busy in his cabinet. I was going to the apartment of the Duchess, when I heard she was a little indisposed, that she would see no person that day, and that there would be no ball that night.

I instantly drew a bad augury from those circumstances. I became a prey to vexation and perplexity. My squire endeavoured in vain to console me; all the reasons he made use of to raise my spirits, yielded to the reflections, which a just alarm inspired in me. I was in those agitations, when my inn-keeper came to announce to me two gentlemen whom I knew, and who wished, said he, to speak to me on an affair of the last consequence. I answered they might come in. These cavaliers presented themselves before me with a very serious air, and one of

them addressing me, spoke as follows: —"We come here as your friends to inform you, that strange reports are spread concerning your lordship, not only at court, but throughout the whole city. You are, say they, by no means a man of quality. They accuse you of having played at Rome very villainons characters. In a word, you have been servant to the Ambassador, whose Nephew you wish to pass for here. We know not, continued he, but the Grand Duke is informed of all they say of you; but we advise you not to appear at the palace, until such time as you shall have proper testimonials to prove the falsity of those reports, which dishonour you."

Whilst this gentleman was speaking to me thus, I was in a pitiable situation. I thought I should faint, and my voice failed me when I undertook to make my apology. I answered, however,

that I could not have imagined that my enemies would have carried calumny so far. That I would go myself by post to Rome that very day, to seek more than necessary witnesses to confound the malice of my envious detractors. The two gentlemen applauded my resolution, and went off to report this conference to the Duke; for it was by order of that prince they came to see me, though they testified to me that it was through friendship alone for me. They were no sooner out of my chamber, than my confident entered. He read in my countenance the afflicting news I had learned. He was in the greatest distress, when I related to him my misfortune. However, far from letting himself be overwhelmed like me, he stiffened himself against the trial, and arming himself with an intrepidity which astonished me :—My dear master, said he, it is now you must

shew some courage. Ought you to be surprised, that in playing a part so delicate in the eyes of the world, an accident should happen, which renders the unravelling of the comedy sad and unfortunate? As for me, I have expected nothing else. But after all, our fall is not so great, but we can rise again. They have left us the coast clear, that is fortunate. Let us profit of the opportunity. Let us quit the territories of Florence, and go make at our leisure elsewhere those reflections, which we may be made to make here disagreeably.

These sensible remarks drew my mind out of the embarrassment it was labouring under. I considered, in fact, I was less unfortunate than I ought to have been. I told Sayavedra his counsels were too prudent, not to follow them, and that if we could set off by post in an hour, we would clinch our

business completely. The thing is very possible, answered he, we have sold your horse. We are not without money. We have but to hire horses and take to the road. Leave to me the care of preparing every thing for our departure. He soon after conducted me to where the horses were waiting. I vaulted lightly into the saddle, and ran the first post without drawing rein. At the second stage, my squire asked me why we were travelling to Rome, and if I had a mind to return there. I answered I was very glad, and with reason, they should believe me on the road for that city, but that at the third post we would stop to determine on what we should further do.

CHAP. IX.

Gusman travels to Bologna, and meets with Bentivoglio, who robbed him. Gusman gets into the company of Gamesters, and is very successful.

WHEN we had arrived at the third post, we made a pause there to take some refreshment and repose, two things we extremely wanted, since I had neither eaten nor slept for the last twenty-four hours. After that we held council, my conmpanion and I, on what was to be done.

I think, said I to Sayavedra, we ought without hesitation to go straight to Bologna. I have a presentiment we will meet Alexander Bentivoglio there, and if I am happy enough to find him, I doubt not, but through accommodation or the way of justice, I may recover a good part of my effects. I approve of your idea, answered my con-

fidant, let us hire horses, and drive off for Bologna. But give me leave, if you please, to represent to you the dangers I will expose myself to in appearing in that city. I believe, as well as you, that Alexander is there, and if, for my misfortune, he sees me, he will wish to know what brought me to Bologna. If he learn I came with you, he will guess your design, and take to hish eels, or at least get me assassinated. That is not all, added he, I cannot render you service in this affair without running the risk of ruining myself, as it will be necessary for me to become prisoner; and when once I shall be in prison, I will never get out again, without a very special favour of heaven.

I entered into all the reasons of Sayavedra, and we agreed that he should not shew himself in the streets of Bologna at all; that he should keep himself concealed in the inn where we

would be lodged, and meddle by no means in my process, suppose I should have one: I even did not think I would want him at all, to have my robber condemned to restore me part of my property. My companion, confirmed by this condition, appeared ready to follow me. We immediately took to the road on hired horses, and the day following, late in the evening, we arrived at Bologna. We alighted at an inn, where there were several strangers, whom different affairs had drawn to that city. I supped with them, and retired betimes to a very good chamber, which Sayavedra took care to have prepared for me. I slept but little, being taken up with my knave of an Alexander, and got up very early with the intention of informing myself if he perchance was in the country. I went out then alone, and walked the streets nearly a quarter of an hour. As I passed

before the Grand Church, I cast my eyes on five or six young persons who were at the door, and remarked one among them, whose coat made me suspect that the cavalier who wore it might be the man I was looking for. I mistrusted at first my eyes; but after a long examination, I found beyond the smallest doubt, that this coat was the very same which a Neapolitan officer had given me, for some service I had rendered him with the Ambassador.

I felt myself then so transported with rage to see this robber decked out with my clothes, that I was tempted in my first transports, to close with him and run my sword through the scoundrel's body; however, by good luck for him, and perhaps still more for me, a crowd of judicious reflections occurred to me to oppose my fury. I returned to the inn, to request of my landlord to direct me to some lawyer eminent in his profes-

sion. He sent immediately to seek a solicitor of law (an attorney) who lived in his neighbourhood, and who for a man of his business, had a great deal of honor and probity. I first asked the solicitor if he knew a certain Alexander Bentivoglio, son to a lawyer. He answered that there was not one in the territory of Bologna, who did not know both the father and the son.

After having made those questions, which seemed to me prudent enough, I related the story how my boxes were plundered. The solicitor heard me out with great *sang froid*, and as a man, who was not at all surprised at what I told him. He declared to me even, that in Bologna every one was accustomed to hear the exploits of Signor Alexander, whose every knavery was of the same stamp as that I had just communicated to him. But I know not, continued he, though you should

enter proceedings against him, whether you will be a whit the better for it. His father is a dangerous man, who by his scheming has set himself above the law; and whom every one in this city dreads more than a general conflagration. I would advise you rather to have the matter secretly communicated to this formidable father, who perhaps will like better to come to some accommodation, than suffer the affair to become public. It is the best plan you can adopt, to get back a part of what you have lost. I answered the solicitor that I was very much of his opinion, and besides the aversion I had to law, I judged indeed I would gain no great things in prosecuting a robber, whose father was such a supreme villain as he described. I pressed him afterwards to take upon himself that commission; and as he testified some repugnance to meddle in an affair disagreeable to

Counsellor Bentivoglio, promised him a good recompense if he succeeded. He could not hold out against this promise, and immediately had the courage to go to the house of Master Sandy's father. My Solicitor returned. He had a look so dissatisfied, it was not hard for me to guess, that he had lost his labor; he told me, the Counsellor had given him a very bad reception; that, instead of wishing to accommodate matters with me, he had taken as an offence this proposal, which was made him, that he seemed as much incensed, as if I had been the robber, and his son the party robbed; in a word, that he was breathing fire and flames against me. I determined then, since he forced me to it, on imploring the aid of justice. The Solicitor begged me to excuse him, if he refused to be of any use to me in this affair, because the father of my antagonist had threa-

tened to send him with all his family to the hospital, if he found, that directly or indirectly he rendered me the smallest service. At least, said I, tell me the name and abode of some good attorney. He named a very able lawyer, an honest man too, and what was more, a secret enemy of my adversaries, at the same time beseeching me to tell no body that he directed me.

I went to seek out this lawyer, to whom I gave also a detail of the robbery committed in Sienna. He took up the word, when I had done speaking. The whole city of Bologna knows that adventure already. Honest Alick has returned laden with clothes, which he has got altered to his own shape, and which, he said, he won from a young Spaniard at Rome. No one is ignorant at what play. Do not lose time, added he, push on vigorously the affair. I doubt not but justice will be done you,

whatever movements old Bentivoglio may make use of to prevent its course. He advised me to take a turn in the city and return to his house in three hours. I failed not returning at the appointed time, and he shewed me, in fact, a memorial well drawn up. My whole affair was explained in elegant and pathetic terms, and so clearly stated, that I was perfectly satisfied with it.

We both went to present it to the magistrate, whom they call El Oydor del Torron, or Auditor of the Tower. He is the judge, or lieutenant criminal. The more I observed my lawyer, the more I perceived him to conduct himself cordially through the affair, as well to support my right, as to confound his brother lawyer, Bentivoglio. But whether that the latter had been informed of my design by the solicitor, or that he was a great friend of the judge and

register, I no sooner handed my petition, than he was informed of it, and lodged a complaint himself against me before the same judge, saying I attack the reputation of his house; and not only pretended that I should make reparation to his wounded honour, but requested that I should also be corporally punished. That is nothing, said my lawyer to me; if Bentivoglio has no dish of his own dressing to lay before us better than this, we have little to fear. We will answer his complaints, when the auditor shall have answered our memorial, which the judge did. But after what manner, great God! in ordering that within three days at the farthest, I should produce my witnesses of the robbery, of which I accused Signor Alexander Bentivoglio.

Though I should send off a man in post-haste to Sienna, to collect the necessary informations, he could not re-

turn to Bologna in so short a time. My honest auditor was not ignorant of that, since I had alledged in my memorial, that it was from Sienna I expected my strongest proofs. My lawyer, in order to influence the judge, remonstrated to him in a second memorial, that it was contrary to common law to perscribe a time for the plaintiff, and by that at least hoped to obtain a more reasonable term. He was deceived in his appeal. Not being able after that to doubt of the good intelligence between the auditor and the *honest* man I had to deal with, he said to me, not without blushing with shame at the frightful injustice which was done me in his country:—I have no more advice to you, than to withdraw as soon as possible from this city. You will gain nothing good in it; I see but too well the malicious trick, they have played on you; that you will only lose your time, your

trouble, and your money. Nor do I know, continued he, shaking his head, if you will get off so cheap even. You are a stranger, and they believe here that justice permits injuries against every other nation but the Italian.

I promised my lawyer, that the day following I would not fail to do as he advised me. I thanked him for the pains and care he manifested in my cause, and drew out my purse to pay him generously; but he declared he would receive nothing.

I returned to my inn full of esteem for my lawyer. I found Sayavedra, who was not without some uneasiness. He feared I would ultimately sacrifice him to recover my effects. Truly, I had but to bring him before the court, to put a stop to the chicanery of old Bentivoglio. I was not however capable of such a treachery. I had pardoned his, and he served me with a zeal which did not

permit me to remember the past. I told him our law-suit was over, although it had not been yet tried, and that we had but to seek our fortune elsewhere; that I would set off for Milan at day-break next morning; that he should hire a pair of horses, and get every thing ready for our journey.

Scarcely had I given those orders to Sayavedra, when there entered the inn a troop of sergeants, bailiffs, setters, and catchpoles, a profession, which the devil himself would be ashamed to declare himself a member of. They came up to me as soon as they perceived me, and seizing me abruptly by the collar, conducted me to prison. I had in vain asked them, what crime I had committed to be treated so unworthily. They answered nothing, only that I would hear it in time and place. I heard it, in fact, and learned that it was for having been robbed, and that I would

be very happy if I could get out of prison to go to the galleys; that Signor Bentivoglio, in order to punish the insolence I had to complain of his son, had presented two memorials, which every one looked on as defamatory libels against the nobility of his race, and particularly against Master Sandy, whose good morals were generally conspicuous, had obtained from the justice of the *venerable* auditor a permission to have me arrested, until I should undergo a chastisement suitable to my temerity.

These were the contents of a long sheet of paper, which they gave me to read, and which I read not without raising a hundred times my eyes and hands to Heaven, to the great pleasure of my catchpoles and the goaler, who were present.

I was two or three days without seeing any person but the goaler, his turn-

key and servants, who insulted me with gaiety of heart, and sported with my sufferings. This place appared to me a true picture of hell. I should have died with hunger, if I had not had some money. One may well judge I paid dear enough for what provisions I was obliged to buy for my subsistence. In a word, I was obliged to render thanks to my goaler, who, through an excess of condescension came to keep me company, and eat two-thirds of what food was brought me. After which he told me with effrontery, he did not confer that honour on the other prisoners.

Sayavedra, who for the reasons I have already mentioned, dared not appear in the city and solicit for me, made my landlord do it, who touched with compassion to see me so unjustly persecuted, went to look for my lawyer, in order to engage him not to

abandon me entirely to the malice of my enemies. This charitable and generous man, provoked at the tyranny exercised contrary, and in contempt of all law on a defenceless stranger, undertook to serve me again, and draw me at least out of the clutches of those merciless robbers. You must then hear in what manner he brought it about; it is, friendly reader, worth your attention. In order to prevent an ignominious judgment, which was on the point of being passed against me, he advised me to subscribe to an accommodation proposed to me on the part of my adversaries, which I will not pass over in silence here. They made me sign a declaration in due form, wherein I acknowledged Signor Alexander Bentivoglio for a gentleman full of honour, and of an irreproachable life; that I asked his pardon for having unjustly accused him of an evil action;

which I confessed to have done at the solicitation of his enemies. In a word, that I had no cause of complaint against him, and besought him to grant me his friendship.

Behold the fine medium they found out to accommodate both parties. I had no sooner signed this declaration against my honour and my conscience, than I was enlarged. What would I not have written? What would I not have done? Those who know what it is to be in prison, will excuse me for having, in order to recover my liberty, acknowledged a robber for an honest man. I would, I believe, have done any thing I was asked. I got back to our inn, where Sayavedra was in mortal alarm. He knew not if all the steps that my lawyer could take, and the scandalous reports my imprisonment caused in the city, would be capable to draw me out of the labyrinth,

wherein I was plunged. This dear confident was very glad to see me released, as he little expected it. All the gentlemen who lodged in the inn were just ready to sit down to table. As soon as they saw me arrive, they ran to embrace me, felicitating me on my liberation from prison. They testified to me the part they had taken in my misfortune. During the whole repast they spoke of my judges, and every one gave in a character truly worthy of them. As for me, I spoke with a great deal of circumspection, for fear of some new accident.

I ordered Sayavedra after dinner to go and hire horses for the ensuing morning. We will set off, said I, for Milan, it is a thing resolved upon. After what has happened, the city of Bologna ought to disgust me still more than that of Florence.

Whilst Sayavedra was gone to exe-

cute my orders, I amused myself in looking at three of our gentlemen playing cards. I sat by chance near one of them; I attentively considered their play, and, through a caprice usual enough to the human mind, I found that I insensibly interested myself more for him than for the other two. When he lost, I was afflicted, and when he gained, I felt a secret joy as if I went halves with him. Fortune balanced a long time between the three players. The money did but come and go. They had each of them before them thirty pistoles at least, and I remarked that they played for very round sums. He whose cards I was looking on, was not the best player; bad luck also fell on him, when they grew warm and played high. I was dying with desire to advise him; I knew perfectly his want of judgment, and had much ado to refrain from hinting it to him, especially when

I saw him playing for his last stake; in a word, he lost his last *sou*. After which, getting up, he said to the other two players, that he would go out to look for money, and that he would seek a retaliation or revenge after supper. He was a young man who happened to arrive at Bologna to practice, or rather study the law. His parents had given him for this purpose about sixty pistoles, of which he was disburdened without getting a doctor's bonnet. One of the two gentlemen who had so well emptied his pocket, was one of his fellow-students, a gentlemen of Bologna, and the other a kind of French officer. This last person, who was something older than the other two, had much the advantage in skill. The French are no cripples at play, but they meet sometimes people of another nation who straighten their limbs for them.

I withdrew to my chamber, as sorry

to have seen my doctor *in fieri*, as if it was I who was to bear the burden of it. Prepossessed with this ridiculous opinion, I reproached myself to have continued constantly near him all the time of the play, and looked on myself as the cause of his ruin. Then blaming my foolish sensibility; I am an ideot, said I, to torment myself so unseasonably; ought not my own affairs be sufficiently mortifying? Must I then afflict myself with the misfortune of others? Whilst I was making those reflections, I heard this young man enter his chamber, which was separated by mine but by a deal partition. He returned from the city without having been able to borrow any money, and more piqued against those who refused him, than those who deprived him of his last penny. What misery! cried he; is it possible that a gentleman seeks in vain to borrow thirty pistoles in Bo-

logna? The inhabitants of this d——d town are not Christians, they are Turks! Still I don't believe but the Turks themselves would be humane enough to free me from my present embarrassment. In saying these words he sighed heavily, and walked distractedly about his room. Afterwards getting into a fury, he roared like a bull, gave several great blows with his fist on the table, and loaded with bitterest maledictions all the inhabitants of the city. At last, weary of swearing and storming, he threw himself on his bed, where, getting into his plaintive notes again, he renewed his lamentations.

I had in vain endeavoured to harden my heart against them; all would not do; I felt that, in spite of me, I was touched with his misfortunes. At that time, my confidant came into my chamber, to tell me that after having run over the whole city, he had the

good fortune to procure some return horses for Milan. Speak low, my friend, said I in his ear: my neighbour is so afflicted for having lost his money, that I really pity him. I will avow to you, that I am furiously tempted to avenge him. Eh! what will you do to bring that about? said he. I will take his place this night, and embark in the play. That is the way to sink us to the bottom at once, or to go straight to the hospital. At the end of the reckoning, the money which we now have cannot last long. Thirty pistoles, which I believe constitute our whole property, are so small a trifle for travellers who do not go an inch on foot, and who live nobly at inns, that I think I ought not to hesitate an instant. The matter in question is, whether to make two meals a day, or but one, and lie down supperless. What do you think, Sayavedra? I wait your advice in this affair. Do

not tell me that I am going to take the place of a man who has played with bad luck, and that misfortune is contagious. I am no superstitious player, and besides, can assure you, that I will have to do with fellows, who are not a whit more knowing than myself.

My confident replied, that he would always approve of whatever I should think proper to do; but that he would advise me, since I had thought fit to consult him, not to depend too much on good fortune, at hazard, whose caprice I knew already.

I told my confidant that I had a mind to play for gain, and that if he knew of any infallible means to play always luckily, he would oblige me to let me know it; that if there was any foul play to be employed, it was very pardonable in my present embarrassments. He was charmed to see that I yielded with so good a grace to the de-

sire he had of catechising me. I will give you only one lesson, said he, to put you in a way to sweep away all the money of the other players. I will take at proper opportunities a little round about the room, under pretence of snuffing the candles, or of giving you a drink. In the twinkling of an eye I will see the cards of your antagonists, and will make you know all their play one time with my fingers and the buttons of my coat, another time by laying my right or left hand on my breast. When Sayavedra had thus spoken, I agreed with him that I should be a very great blockhead if I lost with such assistance. We settled then between ourselves what every sign signified, and my pedagogue soon perceived that he had in me a scholar of prompt conception. At the hour of supper I went down to the room, where the players who had won were already before me. My neigh-

bour, the embryo lawyer arrived soon after, and we sat down to table. After supper the cards were brought, and as they were preparing to *cut for deal*, my neighbour said:—Gentlemen, I hope you will make no difficulty to play as far as thirty pistoles on my word; but this they declined to do. He then told them he would go and borrow some.

I then spoke, and, addressing the two cavaliers who remained, asked them if they wished that I should make up the third person, until the return of their companion; that I would willingly resign the place to him, as I, being determined on setting off early next morning, could not keep company with them long. Those gentlemen answered me with joy, that I would do them very great honour.

We soon began the contest. Sayavedra sat on a chair near the chimney-piece, and staid there by my orders to be ready to fill out for us. I spared

them at first according to the general practice; however, getting a good opportunity two or three times of some fine lifts without any scheming, I did not neglect to profit of them. I won at least a hundred crowns. These strokes of good luck spurred on those two gentlemen, who, fearing I would leave them, for I hinted it from time to time, the better to warm them in the game, proposed to augment the bets. I told them I was satisfied. A moment after, playing for a great stake, I addressed Sayavedra, Hollo, lad, said I, are you here only for the purpose of sleeping? Give me a drink. He got up, as innocent-looking as a lamb, feigned to be half asleep, and, in pouring wine into my glass, with his eyes half closed, made me, by his signs, sweep away fifteen pistoles from my two players.

To tell the truth, with my own simple skill, I would be more than a match

for those gamesters, and soon run them ashore. However, I must confess the signs of Sayavedra made me sharp them out of their money, especially when it was not my turn to shuffle the cards. When I saw myself in possession of all the pistoles they had spread out on the table in the beginning of the play, I said to them, Gentlemen, it is very late, and you know I am at liberty to retire when I please; however, to let you see that I do not wish to appropriate your money, and that I am a fair player, let us put off the game until to-morrow: I will not go off, though I have hired horses for that purpose. We then separated, each to his own chamber, they in the fear I should break my word, and I in the resolution of keeping it.

END OF VOL. II.

M'Allen, Printer, Paternoster-Row, London.